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The Beit Sahour Girls Secondary School was closed the day of former US President Jimmy Carter's visit to neighbouring Bethlehem. The girls school along with two other Beit Sahour schools, all totaling a student population of 1,250 have remained shut down for the past two weeks. /JN

JALAZON AND DHEISHEH CAMPS UNDER CURFEW

Collective Punishment Used on Schools, Camps, Towns

Representatives of national institutions in the Hebron district held a meeting in an undisclosed location in Hebron March 22, to discuss the emergency situation facing villages and education institutions in the district because of recent Israeli repressive measures. The meeting followed increased reports of food shortages in Halhoul and Dhahriyeh, which have been under curfew for more than 15 days. Dheisheh refugee camp, near Bethlehem, and Jalazon refugee camp near Ramallah, are also still under curfew, imposed after a wave of protests during the visit of former US President Jimmy Carter to the occupied territories.

Three universities and 13 schools in the West Bank also remained closed for an indefinite time. People suspect that the closures will continue until after Land Day, March 30.

Large numbers of Israeli soldiers were seen entering the areas under curfew. Palestinians fear that soldiers plan to remain in the curfewed areas. In Halhoul early last week, five busloads of soldiers were unloaded in the Halhoul Secondary School yard. The soldiers, estimated at 200 erected a camp and a mobile headquarters in the yard. Residents in the curfewed town are given two hours in order to buy food supplies. Although the town's clinic was allowed to open for two hours, medical teams from outside were not allowed in the city.

Very little news was available about the situation in Dhahriyeh, where the curfew is in full force 24 hours a day. It is not known how severe the food shortage is, or how people resupply. A curfew on Dhahriyeh last year lasted three weeks, and after a one week break was re-imposed for another three weeks.

Dheisheh refugee camp two kilometers south of Bethlehem has been occupied by a contingent of the Israeli army since March 11, when they camped in front of the local motor vehicle department. All camp entrances were sealed off by soldiers who were posted to encircle the area. Reports emerging from inside said that, during the first week the curfew was enforced 24 hours. However, during the next three days, the residents were given one hour to resupply with food. . . . . .

Jalazon refugee camp, north of Ramallah, under curfew since March 7, has also been under seige by more than one hundred soldiers, who established their own command post in the camp. . . . . .

Two-Hour Strike to Protest Israeli Attacks

Palestinian residents in Jerusalem and all over the West Bank observed a general strike for two hours March 21, in response to a call by the Higher Islamic Council to protest the Israeli attempt to enter and possibly damage al-Aqsa Mosque. Several dozen people were arrested as they tried to hold a march in Jerusalem.

The strike, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm, caused an almost complete halt to businesses and schools in East Jerusalem. Muslim and Christian shopkeepers closed the steel shutters of their stores in a show of solidarity against the repeated attacks by Israeli settlers against the holiest Muslim shrine in Palestine, al-Aqsa Mosque. Within five minutes all shops were shut, and the number of pedestrians in the narrow streets of the Old City dropped sharply. The same scene was repeated in virtually all cities of the West Bank. Earlier, students turned back on their way to school in observance of the strike.

Groups of youths started a march from al-Wad neighbourhood, near al-Aqsa mosque, and headed northwards, towards Damascus Gate. As they marched, people shouted nationalist slogans and denounced the attempts by Israeli extremists to enter Muslim holy places. The demonstration was forcefully dispersed by Israeli military patrols, consisting of soldiers and policemen, who had been posted in the streets since the morning. Meanwhile, other youths set tyres ablaze.

The largest gathering was inside the yard of al-Aqsa, where protestors were addressed by Sheikh Abdel Razzaq Zaloum, head of the Islamic *waqf* education and guidance department, who outlined the dangers which the mosque is subject to.

In Bir Zeit, students of the university held a forum during the two hour strike. Among the speakers were Kamal Abdel Fattah, Dean of Arts, Amin Abu Lail, head of the Arabic Language Department, and Nazmi Ju'beh, director of the Islamic Museum in Jerusalem.

Abdel Fattah talked about the historical importance of Jerusalem to the Arab nation. He also stated that the repeated attempts to take control of the Muslim holy shrine are not coincidental but "come as part of an organised and well-studied plan." Ju'beh spoke extensively on the daily attempts to change the nature of the holy city, in order to obliterate its Arab face and change it into an alien one.

In Nablus, the commercial strike was coupled with fierce protests in the streets. After setting tyres ablaze, youths clashed with Israeli patrolmen. Soldiers and youths traded tear gas canisters with stones, before the old market, Qasabeh neighbourhood, was put under curfew.

The Hebron district also witnessed partial strikes to mark the occasion and the Hebron municipality halted its activity for two hours in compliance with the strike call.

Sheikh Sa'ad Eddin al-Alami, head of the Higher Islamic Council which called for the strike, said that the public response was one of unanimous approval. He urged Palestinian residents to continue to be alert to possible renewed attacks against the holy places. (Translation from local newspapers.)

Military Outposts Become Civilian Settlements

The Israeli government approved the conversion of eight Nahal military outposts, located near Palestinian population centers in the West Bank highlands, into civilian settlements, March 20. The Israeli cabinet decision, taken at its weekly meeting, drew sharp criticism from opposition groups within the Israeli political establishment.

The most controversial, and by far the most ambitious of the eight approved is Upper Nablus, (Nablus Elite). The settlement, which will replace Bracha Nahal, is planned to house between 2000-5000 families *The Jerusalem Post* reported. The Upper Nablus settlement, which sits above the West Bank's largest city, was initially proposed by the chairman of the World Zionist settlement department, Matityahu Drobless, in his 1980 five-year plan.

Nahal outposts are military and agricultural settlements, which are usually inhabited by youths from a special branch of the Israeli army known as the Nahal group. Land for Nahal settlements is usually furnished by confiscation on the pretext of "military requirements". As in this case, a Nahal outpost is later converted into an urban settlement.

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Women from Lebanon Held in Israeli Prisons

Nine women from Lebanon are known to have been detained at Neve Tirtza prison (Ramle) and re-transferred to Lebanon earlier this month, although it is not known where they are now being held. *Al Quds* Arabic daily reported March 23 that a new women's prison has been built in the Nabatiyeh area and that, according to humanitarian organisations working in South Lebanon, the women are being held there. Their legal situation is unclear. On March 5 lawyer Felicia Langer petitioned the High Court of Justice in Israel on the case of Abla al-Sheikh Hassan (see story, pp. 8-9), presenting power of attorney from the Hon. Prof. Richard Baumlin (Bern). Lawyer Langer also requested permission to visit Abla in the prison.

On March 6, the Israeli media gave large space to lawyer Langer's statement on the case, among others broadcasting it on Israel Radio, on the same day, in three major news bulletins.

On March 9, the chief military MP informed lawyer Langer verbally (pre-announcing an official, written notification) that all the women prisoners from Lebanon had been transferred back to that country the previous day and are therefore outside the jurisdiction of the Israeli court. He was not informed that the women were released upon their return to Lebanon.

Langer thereupon made inquiries at the ICRC headquarters in Tel Aviv and following an investigation was informed on March 11 that the ICRC has not been informed in any way or at any level of the re-transfer of the prisoners to Lebanon. ICRC further informed Langer that inquiries were underway to verify whether the women prisoners have been released or are being detained in Lebanon, and if so, where.

The women from Lebanon known to have been detained are:

1. Abla Ahmad al-Sheikh Hassan from Sidon, Palestinian, 35 years old, mother of 4, the youngest of whom is a mongoloid, arrested on December 1, 1983 (Previously arrested July 15 and in September.)

2. Josephine Johanna Hashawa, from Bhamdoun (Sa'bal Mansorria), 29 years old, Lebanese, mother of 6, arrested on October 15.

3. Suheila Ahmad Ali Hallal, from Sidon (al-Ghazzyeh), Lebanese, 28 years old, mother of a 6-year-old, arrested on November 23.

4. Leila Shahib Mourad, (nee Bibeh al-Harouk), from Aley (Hay al-Balakin), Lebanese Druze, mother of a 4-month-old baby, left with neighbours. Arrested on November 23.

5. Zeinab Aisher Mehmed Loubak, from Ankara, Turkey, 23 years, arrested June 20.

6. Khadija Taha (Harz) from Bazourryieh, Palestinian; her husband is detained in a prison in Israel. Mother of an 18-month-old baby, left with neighbours, arrested January 9,1983.

7. Najah Mohammad Sleiman el-Haj from Burj al-Chamali refugee camp. Palestinian,27 years old. Consigned to the Israelis in mid-January after having been arrested by a Lebanese mercenary milita, tortured and raped. A doctor who visited her in prison saw marks of violence on her body.

8. *Nabiha Diab Issa* from Ain al-Hilweh refugee camp (Sidon), Palestinian.

9. Shahira Khreibi from Ain al-Hilweh refugee camp (Sidon), Palestinian, teacher at UNRWA school, mother of 4, arrested June 25 by the Phalangist militia as she was attempting to flee from Beirut in a taxi.

In reply to questions put to him by Lawyer Langer, the Israeli military MP denied that prisoners held at Ansar or elsewhere in Lebanon are being detained on the basis of the special emergency regulations or of any other laws or decrees issued in Israel. According to the MP, the detention of prisoners by Israel in Lebanon is legitimate on the basis of the fourth Geneva Convention in view of Israel's "status" as an occupying power.

Jerusalem Palestinian Weekly

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Israel Rejects PLO Terms For POW Exchange

Abu Jihad

The Israeli government rejected a Palestinian offer, March 19, to release all eight Israeli prisoners in exchange for recognising Palestinians in Israeli detention camps as POWs. Khalil Wazir (Abu Jihad), deputy commander of the Palestinian forces, also announced that the PLO is ready to allow the mothers of the captured Israeli soldiers to visit their sons.

The Israeli government spokesman, Uri Porat, was quoted in *The Jerusalem Post* as saying that because Israel regards the PLO as a "terrorist organisation", its members "cannot have the privileges of prisoners of war."

In an interview on Jordan TV's Hebrew language programme, March 19, Abu Jihad expressed concern over the fate of Palestinians who are held by the Israeli army. The Palestinian leader referred to a report in *The London Times* which said that at least 40 of the over 5000 Palestinian prisoners have been killed and secretly buried.

Abu Jihad's appearance on Jordan TV followed an appeal by Israeli MK Yossi Sarid one day earlier, to clarify the conditions of the Israeli prisoners. The mothers of the eight Israelis were reportedly disturbed about a report that two Israelis were killed by Israeli tank fire, after they had been captured by PLO fighters February 15.

Abu Jihad, in his interview, explained that the two prisoners were captured by two Palestinian fighters, who were being assisted by a Phalangist. All five were killed when their car was fired at from an Israeli tank in a Beirut mountain suburb near Monte Verde. The Palestinian leader said that two other Israelis, who have been held by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command since last fall, are not being permitted access to the Red Cross because Israel continues to refuse to submit a complete list of arrested Palestinians. "When the list is received, the Red Cross will be allowed to visit them," he told the Jordanian interviewer.

Abu Jihad also renewed his invitation to the Israeli mothers to visit their sons. Early last week, four Palestinian women were shot and injured during a demonstration demanding the release of Palestinians held by Israel. During the past two months, the PLO and Israel have been negotiating, through Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, the terms for prisoner exchange. Abu Jihad earlier demanded that Israel release some 2000 Palestinian political prisoners in Israeli prisons, in addition to all those in Ansar detention camp in Lebanon. Other reports said that the PLO had also demanded the return of all documents which were stolen from the Palestine Research Centre by Israeli soldiers. No agreement has as yet been reached and negotiations are still taking place.

Lebanon Rejects Haddad's Legitimacy

Saad Haddad, middle, and aides.

Israel rejected the new Lebanese proposals in the three-month-old US-mediated talks between Lebanon and Israel, March 23. The deadlock is said to be over the issue of Israel's uncompromising demand for special security arrangements in South Lebanon. Meanwhile six military operations were carried out this week by the joint Palestinian Lebanese forces.

The deadlock in talks emerged during a meeting between special US envoy Philip Habib, and two Israeli statesmen, Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, and Defence Minister Moshe Arens over previous Israeli proposals that Lebanon give Saad Haddad forces legitimacy and control of the 45-kilometer zone in South Lebanon. The US mediator conveyed to the Israelis, Lebanon's "uncompromising no" to what amounts to the current cornerstone of Israeli policy, especially after they withdrew their earlier demand to maintain military outposts in the south.

Reports said that Lebanon had also rejected an Israeli demand to carry out joint patrols within the 45-kilometre zone. Habib is said to have conveyed to Israel the Gemayel government's suggestions to coordinate intelligence information in regard to South Lebanon.

In related news, the Associated Press Agency reported that, according to a US congressional study, funding for the retaining and equipping of the Lebanese army estimated at US $250 million, has been requested from Congress. US military experts arrived in Lebanon last week in preparation for the job.

The Syrian government warned against the presence of Israeli or US troops in Lebanon after a final agreement is reached, saying the agreement would be undermined if it included the stationing of troops in Lebanon.

In South Lebanon eight Israeli soldiers were injured in six military attacks by local resistance groups. An Israeli military spokesman confirmed that six soldiers were taken in Rambam Hospital in Haifa for treatment.

The Mourabitoun *Voice of Arab Lebanon* radio station based in Beirut, reported that most of the military attacks were carried out by the National Lebanese Resistance Front.

ISLAMIC OFFICIAL APPEALS TO UN FOR SECURITY OF HOLY SHRINES

Sheikh Sa'ad Eddin /JN

The head of the Islamic Committee in Jerusalem appealed to the UN Secretary-General March 17 to intervene to protect the Muslim shrine of al-Aqsa from further attacks.

Sheikh Sa'ad Eddin al-Alami wrote to the UN secretary appealing to him, in the name of all Muslims to "condemn and try to restrain the criminal harassment to which Muslim worshippers are constantly subjected to at the hands of Israeli extremists."

In the letter, which lists four cases of major criminal acts against al-Aqsa and other mosques in Palestine, the Islamic official asked that the world body give "these unwarranted and criminal provocations serious consideration." The incidents mentioned were: the burning of al-Aqsa in 1969; the shooting in the Dome of the Rock April 11, 1982 when two Palestinians were killed by an Israeli soldier who was later described as a 'lunatic'; the discovery of a bomb after the Friday prayer, which was successfully defused, and the actual explosion of a bomb outside the Qazzazin mosque in Hebron this year.

Al-Alami urged the UN Secretary-General to "take the necessary steps to protect holy shrines and uphold the right of worshippers to worship in freedom and safety."

LARGEST PALESTINIAN ASSEMBLY IN 1948 BORDERS TO HONOUR WOMEN

WOMEN HONOURED IN UMM AL-FAHM

by Alison Condie

It was billed as a "Women s Party" and the atmosphere was festive as 350 women and countless children packed the Hamra Cinema in Umm al-Fahm, March 19, to celebrate both International Women's Day and Mother's Day. The occasion was the largest assembly by Palestinians within the 1948 borders of Israel to honour women -- and fittingly enough, in a village named "Mother of Coal."

While women of all ages participated in the day's activities, it was young women who took the lead in addressing the gathering. Following the welcoming speech by Khitam Muhammad, representing the women's group of Abna' al-Balad (Sons of the Country movement), Sarary Aghbarriya, a secondary school student, addressed the meeting. Her confident and articulate commitment to nationalist and feminist principles was very impressive, as she spoke of the need for greater recognition of the right of women to work outside the home and for the necessity of women to achieve economic self-sufficiency.

The men of Abna' al-Balad were represented by Ma'rouf Aghbarriya, who praised the strength of Palestinian women throughout the savage history of Palestine, especially over the last year. The audience applauded his call for even greater political organisation and activism among women. He urged the people of Umm al-Fahm to recognise and respect the need and right of women to travel outside the village to work.

Gracila Daniel, a Jewish feminist from Tel Aviv representing "Women Against the Invasion of Lebanon," was well received when she spoke of the need for unity between Palestinian and Israeli women in the face of government oppression.

Following the speeches, which were kept short and to the point, the women's party turned into a cultural celebration. Two young boys gave an extremely moving dramatisation of nationalist poetry, including the work of Mahmoud Darwish. Then Umm al-Fahm's Guevera Cubs Theatre Group brought the audience to tears with their chilling portrayal of a family faced with arrest and intimidation by the security services. All around, women wept as they watched a scene in which a member of the security services humiliated and beat a group of Palestinian activists.

The award-winning documentary *On Our Land*, filmed in Umm al-Fahm,was shown to a delighted audience – indeed the organisers had to turn away people because of the shortage of space.

The afternoon ended with an exhibition of handicrafts made by the women of Umm al-Fahm. Included were skillful examples of traditional Palestinian embroidery. The attachment to national culture was very much in evidence throughout the celebration of International Women's Day and Mother's Day in Umm al-Fahm.

(While Friday is the weekly holiday observed by the majority of Palestinians, being the Muslim holy day, the celebrations were no doubt scheduled for a Saturday to accommodate the many Palestinians who work in Israeli-owned establishments where the Jewish Sabbath is enforced.)

MILITARY ORDER 1049 STRIKES AT JORDANIAN LAW

Israel Consolidates Power Over Municipalities

Israeli military authorities issued a new military order, March 13, allowing Israeli-appointed municipal committees to continue to run West Bank municipalities indefinitely *Al Sha'ab* daily reported March 21. (Palestinian mayors, who were sacked nearly a year ago, described the measure as politically motivated).

Military Order 1049 was issued in order to intercept a legal procedure which gives the elected municipalities the right to retain their position, after one year from their sacking, one legal analyst commented.

The order, which was issued by the military commander of the central region, General Uri Orr, in effect cancels section 8 of the Jordanian municipal law, which stipulates that new elections must be held within one year from the date of dissolving a municipal council. If no elections are held, the sacked council could return to its post.

The military order was issued five days before the first anniversary of the sacking of al-Bireh muncipality March 18.

The timing of its issue apparently is in anticipation of any legal action on the part of the West Bank municipalities; West Bank mayors had been debating whether to seek a return to their posts or not. Jordanian municipal law was frozen by the Israeli authorities in 1980, at the end of the ordinary four-year municipal term. Palestinians believed that the military authorities were hoping for elections on the basis of the autonomy scheme, which was outlined in the Camp David agreement. However, Palestinian opposition to the accords compelled the Israeli authorities to temporarily shelve the idea of holding elections, according to Bassam Shaka'a, elected mayor of Nablus.

Shaka'a commented to *Al Fajr* that the measures of appointing committees to administer cities, and the establishment of Village Leagues, are two faces of the same coin. "The new order is another proof of the political motives behind the firing of mayors," he charged.

The 'civil administration' was established at the beginning of 1982, and was immediately boycotted by most West Bank mayors as a tool to implement the autonomy scheme. Nine mayors and municipal councils were subsequently 'fired' by the Israeli military authorities, touching off widespread uprisings in the occupied territories during which over 30 were killed.

Rent Increases On 'Absentee' Land

The terms of renting property from the office of the Custodian of Absentee Properties are being changed, according to a report in the Israeli government-controlled Arabic daily *Al-Anba'*. Rental fees for these houses must now be paid in Jordanian dinars and prices have been increased.

According to Jordanian law, which should still prevail in the West Bank, tenants are protected from eviction and rent increases, despite the expiration of a lease. But Military Order 293 immunises all property seized by the Custodian of Absentee Property from the protective provision of the rent law.

West Bank attorney Aziz Shehadeh, who specialises in property law, told *Al Fajr* that the raising of rental fees is contrary to Jordanian law, even after the change introduced by order 293. Shehadeh confirmed, however, that collecting rent in Jordanian currency does not contradict any West Bank law. With a yearly inflation rate of over 130 percent, the change to the more stable dinar will substantially increase rents.

At the time of the 1967 war, Israel confiscated all Palestinian property whose owners were absent from the West Bank, and now control it by the Office of the Custodian of Absentee Property.

CONGRATULATIONS

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Daoud Kuttab and Nuha Aliss

on the occassion of their engagement

BZU Harassed; 20 Students Arrested

Israeli soldiers surrounded the campus of Bir Zeit Univeristy, March 23, trapping more than 80 students after an army jeep was stoned. Twenty students were detained following the incident.

Reports said that Israeli soldiers patrolling in the city gathered passers-by, and ordered them to paint over anti-Israeli graffiti which was found on building walls. Soldiers confiscated ID cards of several university students who were ordered at gunpoint to wipe out the slogans. The soldiers also searched university buildings and allegedly found "inciting materials."

Elsewhere, Israeli radio reported that the Israeli army had increased it's patrols in "troublesome areas," especially refugee camps. Hebron residents who travel between Hebron and Bethlehem complained that they have been detoured to narrow and dangerous roads, bypassing the town of Halhoul which is under curfew.

IN TOKYO

PEOPLE'S TRIBUNAL CONDEMNS ISRAEL

The International People's Tribunal held in Tokyo, March 18-21, condemned Israel for its invasion of Lebanon and described it as a "war crime" according to international law.

The International Tribunal was convened to "clarify the true nature of the Israeli invasion and to make its judgment based on concrete facts." The jury consisted of prominent lawyers, intellectuals and professors from around the world, as well as fifteen Japanese intellectuals.

Amongst the locally-known witnesses who gave testimony, according to *Al Ittihad* bi-weekly were Nazareth mayor Tawfiq Zayyad and lawyer Felicia Langer.

Local papers also reported that Halhoul mayor Mohammad Mayor Milhem, exiled by the Israelis in 1980, was present at the Tokyo tribunal and addressed the jury.

According to literature distributed by the tribunal sponsors, the jury was to make judgments on the Israeli invasion, the massacres and other atrocities committed by Israeli soldiers in Lebanon as well as on the subject of the future of Palestinians based upon the principles of national self-determination. Judgment will be based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international laws and conventions.

Among the initiators and supportors of the tribunal are Martin Bernstungl (UK) Noam Chomsky (USA) and Francois Rigaux, of the permanent bureau of the International People's Tribunal.

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Home in al-Amari camp taken over by Israeli soldiers used as observation post overlokking refugee camp. /ED

HERZOG OVER ELON

ISRAEL GETS LABOUR PRESIDENT

The Israeli Knesset elected Labour opposition candidate Chaim Herzog as the new president for the state of Israel March 22, defeating Prime Minister Begin's personal choice of Supreme Court Justice Menachem Elon, 61 to 57 votes.

Israeli reports said that Begin, surprised by the results said, "we suffered a blow." Members in the Likud expressed their deep sorrow that 7 members of the right-wing coalition did not vote in favour of Elon. *The Jerusalem Post* reported that after shocks in the coalition were severe. "No one in its ranks would admit to being one of the seven 'defectors.' " *The Post* commented, and refused to print rumoured names for fear of "defamation." Begin rejected proposals by some MKs for advancing Knesset elections or breaking up the coalition.

Israel's president-elect is a 64-year-old lawyer and businessman, a former major-general in the Israeli army and former ambassador to the UN.

Jewish Terror Group Exposed

The Likud party magazine, *Yoman Hashavua*, reported that reliable sources in the military government revealed that a secret Jewish organisation – which has no link with the group arrested on a charge of attempting to break into the Haram al-Sharif compound last Thursday night has been discovered. According to the magazine the organisation has six goals:

1. Preparation for the possibility of Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank as a result of US pressure, in order to oppose withdrawal by force.

2. Using terrorist tactics to prevent the Arabs from harming Jews on the West Bank.

3. Creating conditions guaranteeing the forced emigration of Arabs to Arab countries.

4. Using terrorism against Arabs who threaten the lives of landbrokers who sell to Jews.

5. Creating problems between Arabs and Jews to provoke disturbances, forcing the government to intervene against the Arabs.

6. Destroying the chances of negotiations between Israel and Jordan.

MK Says Israel Mistaken For Not Driving Out Palestinians In '67

Likud-Herut Knesset member Meir Cohen said March 17 that Israel made a fatal mistake when it did not drive 200,000-300,000 Palestinians of the West Bank across Jordan in the June 1967 war as Palestinians had been driven from Lydda, Ramle and the Galilee in 1948.

Cohen, who is deputy speaker of the Knesset, and who was mentioned as a presidential candidate earlier this month said this in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, after a report on West Bank demonstrations.

Cohen said: "The situation today in the areas proves that stones are more effective than bullets. Our soldiers know how to deal with bullets but they stand helpless when stones are thrown at them. We had the means in 1967 to make sure that two or three hundred thousand would move to the other side, as was done in Lydda, Ramle and Galilee in 1948, but we made a calamitous mistake. Things would have been simpler today: no Palestine problem, no stones, no demonstrations. We could have brought in 100,000 settlers and there would have been n trouble."

Mapam's Victor Shemtov interrupted: "Do you mean we should have driven the West Bankers out?"

Cohen replied: "I learned exactly how it should be done, from the Hashomer Hatzair commanders of my unit in the Israel Defence Forces in the 1948 war." (Hashomer Hatzair is the youth movement of Mapam.)

Cohen went on to say that Israel's best answer to the unrest in the West Bank is to build Jewish towns next to every Arab town, in the same way that Upper Nazareth and Migdal Ha'emek were built in the Galilee. Israel had to press forward with large-scale settlement and it had to punish the parents of youths who threw stones, said Cohen.

Abu Iyad Visits Hungary

Abu Iyad

"The PLO's demand for an independent Palestinian state is accompanied by an increased awareness that such a state will coexist with the Jewish state alongside it," Abu Iyad said, in an interview broadcast March 21 on Hungarian TV.

Abu Iyad, who was visiting the country as head of a Palestinian delegation, added that "whoever is trying to convince Jews in Israel and abroad that the PLO wishes the destruction of the Jewish state are committing a grave error."

continued from page 1

Settlements

The planned settlements are:

Bracha (Upper Nablus) on top of mount Jerzim overlooking Nablus.

Tal Haim, near the village of Rujib, near Nablus.

Ma'aleh Lobon in the Nablus district.

– Ain Sinia, in the Ramallah area.

Karakas.

– Harmoush, near Qalqilia.

– A settlement near Beit Horon.

A settlement east of Jenin.

The Israeli government's decision was applauded by the ultra-right-wing Gush Emunim, whose spokesman described it as "a long awaited event."

Members of the opposition Labour Party criticised it as having negative political connotations. In a statement issued by Peace Now, the movement condemned the decision as 'anti-peace." They accused the Begin government of eliminating all chances for a peaceful resolution.

Victor Shemtov of the Mapam party condemned the decision for being timed with increased talk of Jordan s entry into negotiations. He urged a special meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee in order to discuss the cabinet decision.

Earlier, on March 19 a group of Israelis from the Committee in Solidarity with Bir Zeit University demonstrated in Nablus against the government plans to set up Nablus Elite. The demonstrators carried placards in Arabic and Hebrew, denouncing Israeli settlement in the West Bank.

The Dawn

AL—FAJR

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Publisher:
Paul A. Ajlouny
Editor-in-chief:
H. S. Siniora
Managing editor:
Sam'an Khoury

Hatem al-Ta'ee Street
Tel: (02)281035
POB 19315
East Jerusalem

Telex nos:
Jerusalem: 26467 omar il
Washington: 64677 omar uw

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MISTAKE OR POLICY?

Meir Cohen, deputy speaker of the Israeli Knesset representing the Likud, said last week, "We had the means in 1967 to make sure that 200 000-300 000 (Palestinians) would move to the other side, as was done in Lydda, Ramle and the Galilee in 1948, but we made a calamitous mistake." Cohen, who was speaking in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, called for building Jewish towns (settlements) next to every Arab town. He also demanded that the Israeli government punish the parents of children throwing stones.

On the one hand, we congratulate Cohen for saying aloud what has been and continues to be circulating in the minds of Zionists of all shades — left, centre or right. On the other hand, we would like to warn the reader that saying things loudly and clearly now does not mean that they are new ideas that have never before been put into practice.

In 1967, more than 400,000 Palestinians were expelled from Gaza and the West Bank indirectly through various terror tactics and also by physically forcing inhabitants of certain areas onto trucks and driving them to the East Bank into Jordan, as happened in the border villages of Yalu, Imwas and Beit Nuba.

Kiryat Arba' settlement was begun years ago. The intention has always been that it would overwhelm Arab Hebron and become the future city. The decision by the Israeli cabinet this week to transform eight military outposts into civilian settlements in the West Bank, includes a similar plan to create an 'alternative' Nablus — high above the largest Palestinian West Bank city. Of course these kernels of Israeli settlement would not have been possible if there was no previous land confiscation and the setting up of military outposts on this land.

The conviction of a 13-year-old girl for stone-throwing and the sentencing of her father, a Ramallah baker, with an IS80,000 fine or three months imprisonment — not the first in the history of arbitrary measures taken by the Israeli occupation authorities against the local civilian Palestinian poulation — occurred two weeks before Cohen gave his precious advice.

The statement of the Knesset deputy speaker and its publication on Israeli front pages, indicates the path the ruling Israeli establishment is following. Alongside the previous statements of Israeli establishment politicos — Israel Koenig who said in 1976 that Arabs in Israel are like a 'cancer' or Major Yariv, who revealed recently the army's plans to expell hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their homeland — it also indicates how the fetus of fascism has grown.

Palestinians wonder if the brazen statements of the Israelis will serve as an alarm to those who remember similar statements and deeds earlier this century, which led to destruction, devastation and displacement before, during and after the second World War, or must history repeat itself?

REAGAN AND HUMAN RIGHTS

"The Third World Conference on Soviet Jewry" was held in Jerusalem attended by delegates from 30 countries, particularly the US, Britain and France.

It is obvious from the name of the conference that it is being held to call for Jews in the Soviet Union "to be allowed to emigrate to Israel" even though in reality the majority of those who do emigrate from the Soviet Union choose to remain in Europe or go to America rather than to Israel.

One of the most important statements the conference has heard is a letter sent by US President Reagan, read by Jeane Kirkpatrick US representative to the UN who is known for her extreme hostility towards the Palestinian people.

In his letter, Reagan asserted his support for those Jews who want to emigrate from the Soviet Union and for 'their just cause' saying 'The Jews of the Soviet Union should know that we will not forget them.'

Not content with declaring his support for them, Reagan also asserted that he links any progress in East-West relations directly to what he calls 'parallel progress in the field of human rights."

We wonder whether this is the extent of Reagan's desire for human rights?

We do not need to state the simple fact that the subject of the Jews of the Soviet Union is an internal subject used by the West for political and ideological reasons against the Soviet Union. However, what we do need to state is that we cannot in any way understand the American logic.

A human being is a human being wherever he or she may be, whatever his or her religion or origin is... human rights belong to all humanity, whether white or black, Buddhist or Christian.

It is certain that the American stand alongside the Jews of the Soviet Union does not spring from any moral consideration but rather from political interests and from outright US hostility to the socialist countries which constitute the real threat to imperialist interests in the world, primarily those of the United States.

EEC Issues Statement On Middle East

Rome, 23 March: The heads of governments and foreign ministers of the ten members of the European Economic Community (EEC), meeting in Brussels, issued a joint statement March 22 calling on Israel "to abstain from enlarging the existing settlements in the occupied territories and from creating new ones because these settlements are in conflict with international law and constitute an obstacle to peace efforts. The EEC statement is, as usual, phrased in squalid bureaucratic language, altogether inadequate to meet the dramatic situation and dangers threatening the Middle East at this moment. In particular, observers note it is once more limited to verbal expression, mostly tailored to fit the Reagan administration's policies of the moment, and is therefore deprived of actual weight. Recalling how rapidly and enthusiastically the EEC leaders increased tension in the past, against, for example, the Soviet Union and Argentina, readings of yesterday's statement note the careful avoidance, in the document, of any possibility of similar sanctions despite the manifest, provocative aggression daily exhibited by Israel both in Lebanon and in the occupied territories, and the Europeans' knowledge that without such sanctions, all their calls remain worthless.

Optimistic commentators see encouragement, however, in some expressions contained in the TEN's statement, which indicate in fact a much stronger trend in the EEC toward a recognition of the PLO and its indispensible role in any peace negotiations. Repeated reference to the PLO and — although in a limited context — to the latest PNC session,is unprecedented in EEC documents, these analysts point out.

The statement affirms:

1. "The TEN are profoundly concerned over the persistent lack of progress towards peace between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

2. "The TEN are convinced that all the interested parties must consider the importance of the possibility to achieve the two most urgent and fundamental goals; the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon and the resumption of negotiations on the achievment of a peace agreement.

3. "The TEN express their support for the state and government of a sovereign and independent Lebanon which should be put in a condition to rapidly re-establish its authoritiy, without any restrictions, over the whole of its national territory. This implies (the need for) a withdrawal, within a short time, of the Israeli Syrian and PLO forces.

4. " The TEN express their support for the efforts of the United States towards the achievement of the above-cited goal and the peace-role of the United Nations forces and of the Multi-National forces.

5. "The TEN express their support for the initiative of President Reagan, the Fez plan and look forward to the discussions between Jordan and the PLO decided on by the Palestine National Council.

6. "The TEN consider that the Palestinian people and the PLO should take hold of the opportunity now offered them to pronounce themselves in favor of peace. This will constitute a step forward and the TEN hope that all the interested parties will respond favourably to it.

7. "The TEN call upon Israel to enter true negotiations on the basis of UN resolutions abstain from enlarging existing settlements and from creating new ones, because these settlements are in contrast with international law and constitute an obstacle to peace efforts.

The statement concludes with an affirmation of the interest of the TEN in the Middle East and an appeal for a cease-fire in the war between Iraq and Iran "this conflict being a source of grave concern," [for the TEN].

AMERICAN MASS MEDIA SCRAMBLE TO BOLSTER IMPERIALIST AIMS

PLO Deals A Blow To US Plans

By David Frankel

Ending a nine-day meeting in Algiers February 22, the Palestine National Council (PNC) dealt a stinging blow to Washington's attempts to drive back and split the Palestinian national liberation struggle.

Would the military blows dealt to the PLO by the Israeli war machine result in a political retreat? The PLO's answer was a resounding "No!"

Among the positions adopted in the final resolution of the National Council meeting were the following:

* The PLO reaffirmed its independence from any government, vowing to resist "pressures aimed against this independence, from whatever quarter they may come."

* In keeping with its character as an independent national liberation movement, the PLO declared that the basis for its relations with the various Arab states is "commitment to the Palestinian people's rights, including their rights to repatriation, self-determination and the establishment of their independent state under PLO leadership."

* Reaffirming its determination "to develop and escalate armed struggle against the Zionist enemy," the PLO also stressed "the right of the Palestinian revolution's forces to conduct military action against the Zionist enemy from all the Arab fronts." (The Jordanian, Syrian, Egyptian, and Lebanese governments have all refused to allow the PLO to carry out such military actions from their territory.)

* US imperialism, the PLO declared stands "at the head of the camp hostile to our just cause and the causes of struggling peoples."

Having reaffirmed its character as an independent national liberation movement committed to a policy of armed struggle and opposition to imperialism, the National Council also addressed President Reagan's plan for Mideast negotiations.

Immediately after the withdrawal of PLO fighters from west Beirut last August, Reagan tried to take advantage of the military blows dealt to the Palestinian struggle by the Israeli aggression. He proposed that the Jordanian government replace the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and that Jordan's King Hussein open negotiations with Israel.

While explicitly ruling out the formation of any independent Palestinian state, Reagan stated his support for some kind of federation between Jordan and the West Bank, claiming that he would support Israeli withdrawal from the occupied West Bank on that basis.

In other words, in return for a US promise to support a future Israeli withdrawal, Reagan demanded immediate political surrender by the PLO. If the Palestinians did not take this offer quickly they would get nothing, US officials threatened.

PLO replies to Reagan

The National Council declared in its resolution on the US proposal:

"The Reagan plan in its procedure and contents does not respond to the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights. The Reagan plan negates the Paletinian rights to repatriation, self-determination and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state. It also ignores the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative and contradicts international legitimacy. The PNC declares its refusal to consider the plan as a sound basis for a just and permanent settlement to the Palestinian question and the Arab-Zionist conflict."

Incredible feats of journalisitic acrobatics were performed to portrary PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat as a supporter of the Reagan initiative.

Unable to contain their outrage over the PLO's refusal to give up its struggle, the editors of *The New York Times* declared, "What [the PLO] really rejects is reality, diplomacy and, as always, Israel."

By rejecting Reagan's offer, the *Times* shrilled "the PLO makes its 'parliament' as irrelevant as its army."

A similar tone was struck by the editors of the *Washington Post*, who argued February 22 that the PLO "assured itself a continuing position on the far fringe, with little influence."

Why all the fuss and bother if the PLO really is "irrelevant" and "on the far fringe, with little influence"? Why don't these far-sighted editors, who claim to know what's best for the Palestinian people and the rest of the Middle East, just ignore the rejecters of reality in the PLO?

The truth is that the US rulers and their hireling press fear the PLO and the struggle of the Palestinian people that it embodies.

Fear behind racist abuse

Behind the demands that the PLO accept "reality" — that is, the status quo of imperialist domination and the Israeli colonial-settler state — is fear that the ongoing struggle of the Palestinian people will help trigger new revolutionary upheavals in the Middle East.

Fear is also behind the racist abuse that has been heaped on the PLO. *Washington Post* reporter Jonathan Randal derides the "amateurish improvisation" and "self-defeating sloppiness" of the PNC arrangements. He suggests that the PLO has lost its effectiveness because it no longer has "a foothold in a modern, efficient, westernized society" (ie. Lebanon).

David Ignatius of the *Wall Street Journal* refers to the PNC meeting as a "circus-like event" where "PLO speakers generated reams of vituperative prose."

Thomas Friedman of the *New York Times* referred to "a festival of bombast" and "an air of unreality" at the PNC meeting. "The radicals," he complained, "have declared a thousand nos to American peace plans but have failed to outline any coherent alternative strategy for achieving Palestinian statehood."

It is certainly true that the PLO does not have the power to force the Israeli aggressors to retreat right now. It does not follow, however, that the PLO should give up its struggle for justice and accept imperialist dictates.

Rather, the PLO has correctly sought to hold firm, maintain its unity, and wait for the inevitable shifts in the balance of forces in the region that will create new opportunities for the Palestinian people to advance their struggle. Pursuing this course requires the PLO to take advantage of any diplomatic openings that appear while continuing its organisational work in Lebanon, in the West Bank and in various Arab countries.

Role of imperialist media

One point that is worth taking up in more detail is the role played by the mass media in regard to the PLO. Newspapers and television stations that reach tens of millions of working people are among the more powerful political levers in the hands of the capitalist rulers. Far from being objective or accurate, their coverage of major world events is intended to advance the political course being followed by the imperialists.

During the months leading up to the National Council meeting, the major media in the imperialist countries tried to deepen existing divisions within the PLO and to create new ones, in hopes of contributing to a split in the organisation.

Incredible feats of journalistic acrobatics were performed to portray PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat as a supporter of the Reagan initiative.

Reporters poured momentous significance into Arafat's facial expressions, whether he embraced or shook hands with particular participants, and so on.

An instructive example of how the imperialist media covered the meeting were the articles that appeared in the *New York Times*, the most prestigious US daily.

"The Palestine National Council opened its 16th session today with Yasir Arafat beating back attempts by radical factions to reject President Reagan's Middle East peace plan," reported Thomas Friedman in the February 15 issue.

Claiming that Arafat's approach was one of "not ruling out anything regarding the Reagan peace initiative," Friedman assured his readers that this position was "certain to be adopted."

Two days later, Friedman felt it necessary to change his tune on the Reagan plan, saying that "it is apparent that there will not be a clear-cut answer — neither a total rejection nor an endorsement."

Then on February 22, the *Times* reported in a front page headline, "PLO Council Says Reagan's Proposal Is Not Acceptable." Never one to give up, however, Friedman insisted that the PNC "did not reject the Reagan plan outright."

"PLO Strengthens Rebuff to Reagan" was the headline the following day. Friedman assured his readers that the PNC's final resolution — which declares the PLO's "refusal to consider the [Reagan plan] as a sound basis for a just and permanent settlement to the Palestinian question" — nevertheless fell short of a flat rejection of the American peace initiative."

Finally, on February 24 the editors of the *Times* made clear what had really happened at the PNC meeting. Its hate-filled editorial declared that the PLO was "demanding the impossible — by sticking with its struggle for an independent Palestinian state.

The editors of the *Times* who have supported the Israeli dispossession of the Palestinians from the outset, even had the gall to declare that, "the cause of the Palestinian... has once more been betrayed" — by the PLO!

Meeting with Mubarak?

There have also been frequent press reports about the possibility of Arafat meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, with the implication that the PLO leader was ready to give up his opposition to the Camp David accords.

But at the PNC, Arafat spent nine hours meeting with Egyptian opposition leaders. Not at all fazed, the *Washington Post* explained February 21 that "the opposition is to serve as the conduit to the Mubarak government — a move to avoid possible friction [in the PLO]."

The PNC itself declared that relations between the PLO and the Egyptian regime could only be developed "on the

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Pollution Expert Wants to Clean Up the West Bank

by Joan Mandell

* *Many of the more than 200 pesticides currently in use in the occupied territories are banned in the West.*

* *Locally-produced drugs fomulated with errors in concentration or ingredients are stocked in Palestinian pharmacies.*

* *There is no complete sewage system or treatment plant anywhere in the West Bank or Gaza Strip.*

"There are no guarantees, whatsoever, that the air we breath the food and water we ingest or the drugs we take are safe, concludes Ramzi Sansour, the first environmental toxocologist employed in the West Bank. Appointed this academic year to set up an environmental and occupational health and safety research programme at Bir Zeit University, the 35-year-old Bethlehem native is both professionally and personally committed to combatting health hazards in the occupied territories.

A self-described optimist Ramzi Sansour has challenged himself to work for a healthier environment in Palestine. After graduating from New York University in February 1982 he turned his back on a career in the United States to return to his country to do research in environmental and occupation sciences.

After preliminary work, Sansour has linked most local health and safety hazards to the lack of environmental pollution." But while many people at Bir Zeit have expressed interest in his ideas, he says, "most don't understand the details of the project."

Already the energetic toxocologist has initiated preliminary investigations to identify major environmental health problems. What he has discovered includes: indiscriminate use of and poisoning from pesticides; uneven quality of locally-packaged pharmaceuticals; localised air pollution from industrial, agricultural and motor vehicles; inadequate or careless solid waste disposal and sewage treatment; the failure of housing and street construction developments to include space for human services (such as parks and other recreational areas); and occupational safety hazards at both Israeli and Palestinian worksites.

Ramzi Sansour, environmental toxicologist, on campus at Bir Zeit University /JM

Pesticides

As in other Third World areas documented by the World Health Organisation and consumer groups, the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip are used as dumping grounds for pesticides manufactured by Western-based multinational corporations and banned in their home countries. Ramzi Sansour learned from officials in West Bank departments of agriculture and pesticide marketing outlets that many of the more than 200 pesticides currently in use here have been banned in the West. DDT, Ethyl Parathion, Lindane and 2-4-5-T, banned elsewhere for their high toxicity, mutagentic properties are many chances for contamination of food, earth, water and persons.

Ramzi mentions two problems prevalent in pesticide use. One is the responsibility of the Israeli manufacturer or importer: there is no Arabic-langauge labelling on pesticide packages, and labels in Hebrew often obliterate instructions in other languages, such as English, with which West Bankers are more familiar. The other is that of the farmer: spraying and mixing equipment are not decontaminated after usage, leading to cross-contamination when different pesticides are used in succession.

Workers in a pharmaceutical company in Al Bireh: 'Improperly formulated drugs are reaching the markets with either errors in the concentration of the individual ingredients, or ingredients that counter-effect each other."/JS

control agencies and the low level of popular environmental awareness. Work conditions for Palestinians in Israeli and Palestinian factories, the introduction of Israeli industrial pollution into the local environment, plus the effects of years of military occupation and concurrent lack of responsible government regulations encourage unnecessary hazards," says Sansour.

Even when problem areas are identified by the "responsible" Israeli military-administered departments (health, agriculture and education, for instance), Sansour sees that remedies are usually ineffective or non-existent.

Depending on university staff and administration support, Ramzi Sansour has ambitious plans to launch a wide-scale campaign to clean-up, what he calls, "external and internal (personal) and/or reduced biodegradable properties, can be found on the local market.

"No regulations exist or are enforced on the type or quantity of pesticides sold to any farmer at any one time," comments Sansour. This lack of control, together with the "lack of serious awareness" among the consumer population, results in numerous poisoning accidents yearly, as reported in the local press.

The worker in the Israeli pesticide-manufacturing plant who spray-dries chemicals without a face mask, the unprotected farmer who is unduly exposed to pesticides in his fields, the family who stores poisons carelessly or within reach of their own children, the merchant who markets fruits and vegetables before the 'safe period' for active pesticides has gone into effect - there

Pharmaceuticals

Pharmaceutical factories in the West Bank are little more than packaging plants. they process imported raw materials into powders, pills and syrups. There is minimal supervision and most often no quality control, according to Ramzi Sansour, and no properly-trained personnel or equipment necessary to determine the concentration and quality of the raw materials or of the finished products.

After interviewing owners of pharmaceutical companies, members of the West Bank Pharmacists Union and department of health officials, the research scientist summarised his findings:

(1) Improperly formulated drugs are reaching the markets with either errors in the concentration of the individual ingredients, or ingredients that counter-effect each other.

(2) Drugs that have passed the quality control test have their batch numbers duplicated, thus giving the impression that only one batch has been produced when in effect a few 'uncontrolled' batches were produced.

(3) The token quality control programme performed by the department of health is run in one of the Israeli laboratories by untrained personnel (students) often leading to erroneous results.

There is no market follow-up, no programme or information on recall of drugs failing quality control tests or found unsatisfactory by the consumer. Toxic and potentially dangerous drugs are dispensed carelessly by pharmacists and untrained staff (including children!).

Air Pollution

Quantitative monitoring of air pollution requires trained personnel and air monitoring systems, neither of which are currently available in the occupied territories. Sansour is particularly interested in pollution caused by pesticide residue, heavy metals, nitrous and sulphur dioxides and fallout from atomic weapons tests.

But even without testing or expert testimony, local residents are aware of several forms of localised air pollution. For example, Dheisheh camp residents, who bed their children under cheesecloth nets and see clouds of dust settle on their furniture, know that the Israeli-owned quarry adjacent to the southern edge of the camp has caused an increase in bronchial disorders among the population. Local doctors and a Belgian researcher have backed-up daily observations with a well-documented study. In this case, as in others, the victims have little faith that the hazard will be controlled. "After all," argued one Dheisheh resident, "it was the Israeli military authorities that granted the quarry its operating license in this location. Can we expect they'll voluntarily close it down?"

Water Pollution

Having specialised in "aquatic toxicology" — known as "water pollution" to the layperson — Ramzi Sansour is especially interested in studying contamination of drinking water. Preliminary results of his three-village study suggested fecal coliform bacterial contamination of untreated well and spring water.

Following through on this issue highlighted for Ramzi a problem that goes beyond that of lack of popular awareness and supervisory agencies: the lack of governmental concern for remedying acknowledged health problems. He visited an official in a local health department with word of contaminated water. Said the official. "Oh, those villages. We know about the problem. It's prevalent throughout the West Bank."

Sewage Treatment

There is no complete sewage system or treatment plant in the West Bank or Gaza Strip. In the alleys of refugee camps and in the ancient crowded lanes of West Bank and Gaza towns, the stench of running garbage provokes one of the most common complaints. The few municipalities that have taken steps to resolve the sewage problem have run into obstacles from the military administration: permits for work have been rejected, funds for municipal projects blocked and land available for treatment

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Palestinian Women from Lebanon Held Hostage in Israeli Prisons

THE CASE OF MARIAM ABDEL JALIL

by Livia Rokach Our Rome Correspondent

Until 2 am on November 1 1982 when Israeli soldiers burst into her home in the Palestinian refugee camp of Bourj al-Chamali (Tyre) in occupied South Lebanon, arrested and took her away, Mariam Abdel Jalil was a perfectly normal, cheerful, 30-year-old woman, whose activity consisted of teaching embroidery to women and girls in the camp so as to render them capable of maintaining themselves and their needy families: a vital social role, especially in hard times such as the present for the Palestinian population in Lebanon.

But on January 19, 1983, the woman who was put onto a Red Cross ambulance and taken back from the women's section of the prison in the center of Israel, was a human wreck. A month later, in mid-February, Mariam was still in a state of profound shock, suffering from anorexia, incapable of communicating or of working, a shadow of her past self. Fearing a scandal, the authorities, in answering questions from international organisations and individuals interested to discover what had happened to her during the 79 days of her imprisonment, are trying to insinuate that Mariam was "mentally sick" to start with. They don't seem to have any explanation to offer, however, as to why their troops, under the direction of the Israeli secret service (which the Israelis vaunt as "the best in the world"),should have broken into the home of a "mentally sick" woman in the thick

Palestinian women with their children in Lebanon. The material welfare and psychological security of the children, elderly and disabled rests with them

of the night, arrested her, subjected her to interrogations in a military center in Lebanon transferred her to Israel, and kept her in isolated confinement in prison for over two months, without any charge being brought against her at any time.

The truth, of course, is very different from that which the authorities are trying to sell to the International Commission of Jurists in Geneva, the ICRC church organisations and others who, in Lebanon, in Israel and in Europe, expressed concern at the state in which Mariam was released from prison.

The Rome-based Centre of Information for the Defence of Palestinian Civilian Populations. Prisoners, Deportees, and Missing which comprises among its sponsors well-known jurists, MPs, senators, church personalities, doctors and journalists, acquired knowledge of Mariam's case in early December 1982, about one month after her arrest. Investigating the circumstances of her arrest and imprisonment, the Center came to discover the following data:

1. For the past six years, up to the June 1982 Israeli invasion and occupation of South Lebanon, Mariam Abdel Jalil, the daughter of a family of Palestinian 1948 refugees, had worked as an embroidery teacher at the women's handicraft workshop of Najdeh a Lebanese social assistance association aiding Palestinian refugees at Bourj al-Chamali camp, where she lived with her family. In this capacity she also distributed production materials cloth, threads, etc. to the women who produced the embroidered articles for sale through the Association. Her work which thus contributed to the income-producing activities of women and girls in the camp, was much appreciated by the latter and by her colleagues. Mariam was also widely liked for her sweet and sensitive personality.

2. Following the war and the Israeli bombings which devastated over 60 percent of Bourj al-Chamali camp, Mariam, together with her parents, sisters and other relatives, as well as about 4000 survivors from among the camp inhabitants who had fled the bombings and shellings, went back to live among the ruins of the camp. She resumed her work with Najdeh, which as a regularly registered *Lebanese* association could legally pursue its assistance to the woman population of the camp, now rendered even more vital due to the fact that most of the men had either died or were dispersed in the war, the larger part had been made prisoners by the Israelis. At the same time, all the Palestinian assistance structures have been banned by the occupation authorities. Women now have to find means of material survival for their families, mostly made up of numerous children, old and sick people, in addition to looking after their daily needs. The women s embroidery work, as modest as the income from this may be, has become the only source of subsistence for hundreds of families. Najdeh's workshop having been destroyed in the bombings, Mariam now provided the women with materials to be worked on at home, thus also facilitating their need to work in their own time, without having to abandon their families who depend on them for all domestic problems.

3. On November 1, at 2 am, without offering the least explanation either as to the motives for their action or as to where they were taking her Israeli soldiers broke into Mariam's home in Bourj al-Chamali camp and took her away with them. The next day it became known that she had been taken to the Israeli military command at Tyre, to be subjected to interrogation. In the upper two storeys of the 8-storey command building, a special interrogation centre had, in fact, been set up by the Israeli secret services. It would become known later that in this centre there were specially equipped torture rooms and that Palestinians arrested without any charge brought against them were being subjected there to what Mossad officials named *"a good job,"* before being transferred to Ansar or to other prisons inside Israel.

4. In the days following Mariam's arrest, the Bishop of Tyre, solicited by Christian organisations and personalities who knew Mariam sent a priest of his diocese to the military command in Tyre, to inquire as to the reasons for her detainment and to obtain news of her. The priest was brutally turned away by the Israeli officers and told "not to get involved in things which don t concern (him)."

5. On November 11, in the early morning, a gigantic explosion devastated the entire building of the Israeli military command in Tyre, causing the deaths of over 100 persons, including according to official Israeli figures about 20 prisoners who had been held in the two upper storeys' interrogation and torture centre. Mariam's family and friends were convinced that she, too, had found her death in this explosion.

6. A few days later, a message sent through the ICRC indicated that Mariam was alive. She had been transferred to Israel the very evening before the explosion (November 10) and was imprisoned at the women's section of Ramle prison. No explanation was given for this transfer or for her continued imprisonment.

With this information in hand, the Rome-based Center of Information appealed to lawyer Felicia Langer to follow Mariam s case, beginning with an attempt to visit her in prison and verify her conditions. Since it was necessary for advocate Langer to get a delegating power on behalf of the detainee, the Center asked a well-known European personality Professor Richard Baumlin, a distinguished jurist highly active in the field of human rights and a member of the Confederal Swiss Parliament for the Socialist Party, to formally delegate lawyer Langer to petition the High Court of Justice in regard to the case in question.

In late December 1982, lawyer Langer asked for and received by phone from the prison authorities confirmation that Mariam Abdel Jalil was indeed incarcerated there. She was told that she could come and visit her.

In a memorandum addressed to Professor Baumlin on February 6 1983, lawyer Langer reported, however, that:

On January 3, 1983 I arrived at the prison, and after being made to wait for almost an hour, I was told that the intelligence service would not allow me to see Mariam. The explanation was as follows: *'The women from Lebanon, those who are here now as those who were here before, are not allowed to be represented by lawyers. We were astonished that you came and therefore decided to check it. The answer is, obviously No...'* (Emphasis in the original.)

Lawyer Felicia Langer goes on to describe the procedure undertaken by her:

. . . I applied on January 5, 1983, to the High Court of Justice with a petition... asking the prison authorities and the minister of defence to show cause why they are preventing me from seeing my client. I argued in my application that according to the law (The Law of the Bar Association, 1961, Section 22), every person has the right to be represented by a lawyer before every administrative, juridicial or quasi-juridicial body, etc., and that this sacred and vested right is denied to Mariam arbitrarily; moreover, such a practice is in contravention to the well-established rule of natural justice as expressed in the ancient maxim: *Audiatur et altera pars.*

I have also quoted article 72 of the 4th Geneva Convention, 1949, which expressly and absolutely grants the right of legal aid and representation to the inhabitants of occupied territories. In addition, I expressed my fear that the authorities are preventing my access to Mariam and are holding her completely *incommunicado*, in order to conceal illegal *and/or forbidden acts or behavior towards her.* (Emphasis in the original.)

My application was transferred to a panel of three judges and submitted to the attorney general for reaction. A hearing should have ensued, but no date had yet been fixed when, on January 19, I heard from a person who had unofficial information on the subject, of which, however, he was not sure, that Mariam had been transferred back to Lebanon.

On that same morning, Mr. Marco Ferrari, legal delegate of the ICRC in Israel, came to my office to confer on another case. I used this opportunity to ask him to check the matter. He checked it over the phone with his headquarters, and the reply was as follows: *'Mariam was transferred to Lebanon in an ICRC ambulance and released due to health reasons, ie. because considered by the authorities to be mentally insane.'*

I double-checked this affirmation with persons who had known Mariam well, had worked with her, and had met with her shortly before her arrest in Lebanon. All the testimonies confirmed that she was a perfectly normal person and in no way mentally disturbed. *The inevitable conclusion is, therefore, that Mariam's present state of shock and mental disturbance was caused in some way by her jailers, either in Lebanon or here.* (Emphasis in the original.) It also follows that the authorities chose to re-transfer her to Lebanon in order to obstruct my meeting her and exposing the truth.

Mariam taught embroidery at the women's handi- craft workshop of Najdeh at Bourj al-Chamali. Her work contributed to the income-producing activities of women in the camp.

I received no formal communication about Mariam s release until I contacted the attorney general on the phone on January 26, 1983, and asked him about the case. He then told me that "Mariam is not here anymore." I requested written communication which he promised to let me have soon.

A few days later, I received a summons for a hearing on the case scheduled for April 5, 1983 (!) I contacted the attorney general once again and was told by his apprentice that an official communication was transmitted to the High Court and to myself on January 31, 1983, and that they were 'surprised' that I hadn't yet received it. It was read to me over the phone, as follows: *'Mariam Abdel Jalil was released two weeks ago and she returned to Lebanon. The attorney general's office was informed that she was released for reasons connected with her health. In the light of this there is no factual ground to proceed with the petition and it must be cancelled. Mrs. Langer was informed of this by phone.'* (Emphasis in the original.)

It may be observed that the fact that a court audience had been fixed for April 5, ie. for a date three months after lawyer Langer had tabled the petition to the High Court, must have had a precise significance. Evidently, the authorities did not expect lawyer Langer to learn of Mariam's re-transferto Lebanon so soon after it had taken place, and had expected her to wait patiently for the date of the audience. By that time lawyer Langer might have encountered difficulties in tracing Mariam or her friends in Lebanon and learning of her condition at the time of her release. What had been done to Mariam, in other words, would have lost its "news value" if it had come three months after her release and re-transfer to Lebanon. Another possible scenario is that the authorities had not contemplated Mariam's release at all, but rather expected, seeing her rapidly deteriorating state of health and loss of weight, that within the three months scheduled to pass before the audience came about, she might have died in the prison thus "closing" the case; and that they decided to release and smuggle her back quickly to Lebanon only because of increasing outside pressures and inquiries from international bodies, and after Mariam's case had been widely publicised in the European press through the efforts of the Rome-based Center of Information and lawyer Langer herself. Whether the first or the second hypothesis is the one conforming to reality, the facts involved certainly call for supplementary investigation.

In summing up her action, lawyer Langer concludes:

1. The authorities, in my opinion, are guilty of a severe breach of an elementary human right of an arrested person to be treated as a human being, and to be assisted by a lawyer.

2. The authorities are guilty of causing sickness and/or mental disorders to Mariam, who was a completely sane and normal person prior to her arrest and has since been reduced to a human wreck, as I learned from her friends who visited her after her release and were shocked by her state.

3. Her release was brought about solely due to the fear that I should be authorised to see her, knowing that such a visit would bring forth the truth. The question at this point is: What is happening or might happen to other persons who are deprived of outside pressure in their interest and the delegation of lawyers to represent them...

4. The attorney general's answer, which was delayed and is evasive, is yet more proof that the authorities at a certain moment wanted to rapidly get rid of Mariam's presence, out of fear that the local media might, with my help, disclose the truth; while in Lebanon, in the atmosphere of terror prevailing there, she and her family would keep silent.

5. The authorities are arrogantly violating International Law and its sacred maxims as embodied in the Hague (1907) and Geneva (1949) Conventions, the Universal Declaration (1948) and all the other conventions on Human Rights.

Upon her "secret" release from Ramle prison, Mariam was transported in a Red Cross ambulance to Tyre hospital, where she was placed under the care and observation of ICRC personnel. According to her family's wish, she was brought home some days later, and a Red Cross doctor has been assigned to take care of her there. Friends who have known the woman for many years, and have worked closely with her, visited her at home one week after her release and re-transfer to Lebanon. They described her in the following terms:

> "... lost weight in a most impressive manner... is incapable to will or to communcate... seems a shadow of her past self..."

A few days after Mariam's return home, her brother, who had been imprisoned in Ansar at the time of Mariam's arrest, was released and also returned to Bourj al-Chamali. Mariam s condition has hardly improved since, however, and in mid-February, almost one month after her release, she was still losing weight and immersed in a state of estrangement and inability to communicate. As a result of investigations conducted by the Rome Center of Information in both Israel and Lebanon first details of some of the causes of Mariam's state have come to light. Indeed, it was ascertained that while she was held at the military command in Tyre during the first 10 days of her detainment, Mariam was subjected to an interrogation regarding the pre-war lives, activities and opinions of her two brothers, one of whom was imprisoned at Ansar and the other dispersed during the war. This interrogation was accompanied by heavy pressures put to bear on her, including the arrest of her elderly parents and their transfer from their home in the refugee camp to the military command where she was being held. Mariam was shown that her parents were there and told that as "punishment" for her 'refusal to confess", (ie. to tell the interrogators what they wanted her to say about her brothers) her father and mother would be shot to death. It is not yet known what else happened on that occasion, or what other means of pressure or mistreatment may have been used. But clearly this fact alone, sophisticatedly calculated to generate primordial emotional conflicts and a sense of guilt, could cause psychic damage to any sane person. Mariam's parents were in fact later released, but for the rest of her detention period, Mariam was led to believe that they had been executed as a result of 'her refusal to talk."

At present, Mariam is under intensive care and her friends hope that she will be able to recuperate, regain her will to live, and become capable of confuting the evident hope of the Israeli torturers that the shock caused her was sufficient to prevent her full story from coming into the light.

Similar Cases

The discovery of Mariam's detention in the Israeli prison has led lawyer Felicia Langer, and through her the Information Center in Rome, to acquire data regarding the arrests in Lebanon and the transfer and imprisonment in Israel of a number of other women. Previously these facts were completely unknown both to public opinion at large and to the organisations concerned with the question of Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners, deportees and missing.

Following this discovery, it has been ascertained through investigations of individual cases that, as a general rule, all the women arbitrarily arrested in Lebanon and illegally transferred to Israel have to all intents and purposes been taken by the occupation forces as hostages. In fact, the main scope of the authorities in removing from the families the vital and central presence of the women upon whom the material welfare and the psychological security of the children, the aged and the disabled depend, is to exercise pressure on "their men" - husbands, fathers, brothers, sons to give themselves up, if they have not already been captured by the occupying power. In other cases, in which the men had been already imprisoned, the pressure is intended to force them to "collaborate" with the interrogators. The interrogation of the arrested women also invariably centers on the past activities of the men of the family, and in those cases in which Israel has not been able to capture them, on their possible whereabouts.

In exercising these cruel methods of psychological blackmail and torture upon both the arrested women and their families, the Israelis take into account the strong ties of affection existing in the Palestinian family, both traditionally and as a result of the years-long sufferings and hardships to which the refugee camp populations have been subjected. They count on the distress caused to the family and eventually to the dispersed husband, brother or father, when informed of the arrest of his wife, sister or daughter, to push the man either to give himself up in order to return the mother to the abandoned children (sometimes small babies), or to make contact with the family and thereby be trapped and captured.

A case illustrating these methods is that of Abla Ahmad al-Sheikh Hassan, a 40-year-old Palestinian woman, mother of 5 children, one

Felicia Langer and fellow lawyer Lea Tsemel address a press conference on Israeli abuses at Ansar prison camp./SF

of whom is a mongoloid needing constant and special care. Abla, an educated and intelligent woman whose husband had been dispersed in the war, is the director of the UNRWA school for children of Palestinian refugees in Sidon.

Abla al-Sheikh Hassan was arrested for the first time in August, and interrogated as to the whereabouts of her husband of whom she had no news whatever. After a while she was released, but was arrested again some time later and transferred to Ramle Prison in Israel. She was again interrogated about her husband, "accused" by the Israelis of being a Palestinian militant. After weeks of imprisonment, Abla was released a second time. Then on December 1, 1982, she was arrested again and taken to the same prison in Israel where she is still detained. Never at any time has any accusation been formulated against Abla herself, and her interrogation invariably has centered on her husband. Her interrogators do not conceal their disappointment that her detainment has not yet served their purpose of trapping and capturing her husband. On the other hand, their hope that a prolonged tearing away of the mother from her children who badly need her presence will eventually permit them to achieve this purpose is hardly concealed.

Another macabre case of the Israeli occupying power in Lebanon taking women as hostages is that of Watfa Hamid Mahmal Freij, 28, also from Bourj al-Chamali camp. The mother of a 5-month-old baby at the time of her arrest on September 16, 1982, she, too, was transferred to Israel. Watfa's husband was killed in the war, but the interrogators did not believe that he was dead. For almost three months this young widow, whose baby had been abandoned to the care of relatives in the camp, themselves in difficult conditions, was severely harassed by the interrogators as to the 'whereabouts" of her dead husband. Watfa was finally released in mid-February and returned to Lebanon.

Following the release of Mariam, Watfa and Fatma al-Maslah (also from Bourj al-Chamali Camp) there are at present at least 8 other women hostages from Lebanon being held in Ramle prison in Israel. Three of them are Lebanese women from the villages of Bhamdoun and Alley in the central mountain area.

Rome, February 25,1983

Portrait of an Israeli Political Prisoner

Udi Adiv: Jailed for Dialogue with Palestinians

by Daoud Kuttab

Udi Aviv before his imprisonment

At one of the literature booths erected on the route of the Peace Now demonstration in Tel Aviv, September 26 – now better known as 'the demonstration of the 400,000' – a tall Israeli woman held a placard reading "Palestinians' murderers are heroes but those who try to live with Palestinians are considered a danger."

In addition to expressing her indignation at the Sabra and Shatila massacres, the young woman was also directing public opinion to the case of Udi Adiv, an Israeli political prisoner who has served 10 out of a 17 year sentence. His crime was an untimely effort to make dialogue with Palestinians when it was considered treason in Israeli society.

Udi Adiv's family and college sweetheart Lea Leshem began a public campaign last autumn hoping public pressure would force Israeli President Yitzhak Navon to grant Udi amnesty. Adiv's family is convinced that Udi's sentence is grossly out of proportion to his alleged actions. The three High Court judges who confirmed his sentence in 1973 and thousands of other Israelis agree with the family and have signed petitions for Udi's release.

Who is Udi Adiv?

Udi Adiv was born two years before the establishment of the state of Israel at a kibbutz in the Triangle called Gan Shmuel. The kibbutz is closely tied with the MAPAM party.

His early life, friends say, was dramatically affected by an immigrant from France, Ilan Halevi, who has since left the country in protest at its policies.

In the 1967 war, Adiv's participation in the battles around Jerusalem provoked his political discontent. Especially bothersome to him was the attitude of Israelis towards Arabs. His search in 1968 for ways for Israelis to dialogue with Palestinians led him to predict a gloomy future for Israel. He said that a state of permanent war would exist if the Israeli government continued its aggression against the Arab world and persisted in ignoring Palestinian rights.

In 1969, Adiv read an interview with Nayef Hawatmeh, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, in *Le Monde*. In it Hawatmeh outlined concrete steps for solving the problems of Jews and Arabs in Palestine. At that time, even the most leftist Israeli groups considered the PLO as merely bands of guerrillas and not as a political organisation representing the Palestinian people. Most immediately the interview spurred Adiv on in his efforts to dialogue with Palestinians and he established the 'Red Front', the first political organisation in Israel to include Arabs and Jews. As Lea Leshem explains, Adiv's attitude at that time was that "every Palestinian is a good revolutionary." His naive trust led him to agree to accompany some Palestinians to Syria to be introduced to PLO representatives.

Adiv's trip was a failure. In Syria he met no PLO leaders and on his return he was arrested along with four other Jews and 25 Palestinians. He was charged and convicted of "treason, violation of state security and meeting foreign agents." According to Israeli investigators, the individuals he met were actually Syrian agents. The 17-year sentence given to Adiv is the most severe ever meted out to a Jew for a political crime.

Leshem describes the Israeli mood at the time of Adiv's trial: "Israeli society was full of chauvinism and racism towards Palestinians in the occupied territories." She says that Golda Meir's famous statement, 'There are no Palestinians' accurately represented the Israeli mood. Adiv's trial was given wide publicity. Israeli newspapers slapped sensationalist labels on Adiv; 'super-spy', 'saboteur', and 'terrorist' were some of the mildest.

The publicity was so libelous that former Israeli judge Yitzhak Ulshem said at the time, "In a Western democracy no trial was ever held with such negative prejudgement by the press." . . . . . .

Throughout his incarceration, Adiv has refused the special prison privileges normally given to Jewish prisoners. He has insisted on remaining with Palestinian prisoners and has turned down any offers made to him but denied his Palestinian colleagues. Prison officials have tried to tempt him with vacations, better conditions, access to telephones and private visits if he agrees to move in with Jewish criminal prisoners. He has refused.

In November 1982, after 10 years of his term expired, Adiv's family applied to Israeli President Navon requesting amnesty for Udi. They argued that many Israelis have recently met with PLO officials and have incurred no punishment, whereas Udi is still being punished for attempting such an act. They explained that Udi was harshly judged because of the negative political atmosphere at the time of his trial.

Adiv's family has gone to the public in an attempt to mobilise the largest possible support for their demand. They have asked Israelis and Jews abroad to petition Navon and thousands have done so. Adiv's family hopes that the pressure will persuade the president to ignore the probably unfavourable amnesty recommendation he can expect from the prison security services. They have become less optimistic of a positive decision after the authorities turned down Udi's application for a vacation from jail so that he could marry Lea. Explains Leshem, "Last April Udi applied to the court saying that he had been discriminated against. Two days before a Tel Aviv district court could hear the case, the prison security services delivered a report charging Udi with being a "security threat" and "head of the PLO in the prison." The court ruled against Udi, stating that his creation of a family in Israel will not quell the "destruction of hundreds of families by a group that Adiv identifies with and supports."

Unlike the situation in 1973 however last spring's court ruling did not garner any bad publicity for Adiv. On the contrary, some Israeli papers criticised it and suggested the judges should have gone to Ramleh prison and seen for themselves if Adiv represents the threat he is said to.

One person who took the papers' advice was High Court Judge Moshe Etzioni. He visited Adiv in jail, talked to fellow inmates and guards and is said to be working hard behind the scenes along with two other High Court judges to get Adiv freed. The other judges, Haim Cohen and Yitzhak Kahan, who along with Etzioni upheld Adiv's sentence, are now making requests for his release.

Meanwhile, Udi's family, Lea Leshem and other concerned parties vow to continue their public campaign until he is freed.

continued from page 7

Pollution Expert

centres on the peripheries of towns declared no-building zones or confiscated outright. As more and more people have been forced to cram into unzoned municipal boundaries as a result of the increasing theft of Palestinian land for Israeli settlements, the situation has deteriorated.

In Khan Yunis, Gaza, Israeli settlers threatened and assaulted construction workers last year at a seaside site approved for a sewage treatment plant by the area military authorities. The would-be project, adjacent to the settlers' tarantulan 'Katsif' colony-bloc, would have stopped extension of the settlement in that area. Work on the plant subsequently stopped.

UNRWA, responsible for health and welfare in the Palestinian refugee camps, has for the most part tackled the open-air sewage situation with shovels and wheelbarrows. In some camps the agency has dug narrow, open trenches so that sewage does not back-up into the houses.

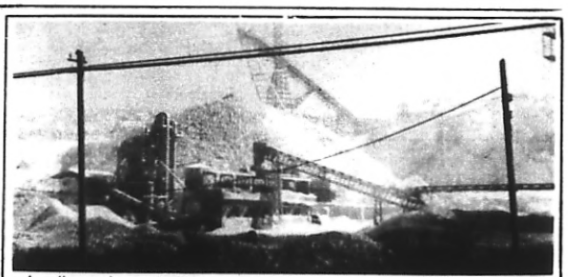
Voluntary work committees of residents and secondary school niversity students have also dug such trenches, but these sanitation activities are seen as "security' threats by the military authorities who have frequently forbidden such group work or arrested participants.

Occupational Health and Safety

Palestinian workers are exposed to a wide array of health hazards on the job. Whether in traditional Palestinian crafts (weaving, stone-cutting, tile polishing, olive oil soap manufacture) modern local industry (plastics, matches, cigarettes). or in the most dangerous, least desirable jobs in Israeli factories and construction sites, workers are needlessly injured and killed. "Not a month goes by without reports in local papers of worksite accidents and deaths," Sansour points out.

Cancers have been associated with cotton dust inhalation in the textile industry (bisonosis – "brown lung disease") and in mining (silocosis – "black lung "), in studies done in the West. Ramzi Sansour suggests that the local weaving and stone-cutting industries be investigated for the presence of cancer-causing particles, and necessary safety devices be installed.

A Healthy Environment Can Be Dangerous



Israeli-owned quarry adjacent to Dheisheh cause of an increase in bronchial disorders among camp residents./JM

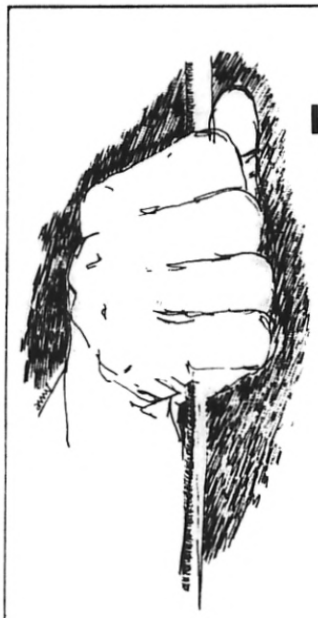
"Since I was young I loved our countryside and our clean environment," beams Ramzi enthusiastically. "But," his voice drops, "throughout my visits home over the years I could see the environment being destroyed by developing industrialisation alongside the lack of awareness by the people and interest by the government."

Half a year into his work at Bir Zeit, he has already drawn some tentative conclusions that could jeopardise his scientific work at any stage. He insists that there must be an "introduction of adequate safeguards for protecting human health against unnecessary exposure to harmful or potentially harmful compounds. Research into the presence, route of entry and metabolism of such 'hazardous' compounds is also necessary in order to assess the impact on human health and also on the environment. Besides, we must raise environmental awareness on the popular level... and we must develop regulatory control agencies."

What this ultimately means, Ramzi Sansour affirms, as an environmental toxicologist and as a Palestinian, is that people must have control over their own natural resources and productive capacities – a remedy impossible to achieve under military occupation.

The Ignoramuses At the Time Of Jungle

by Ibrahim Alam



He could not remember how many hours his hands remained gripping the ventilation bars of the cell, but he still remembered feeling severe pains burning his wrists even one month after his detention. Please God, if only the shackles were the source of his pain, but the canvas sack and its putrid smell were more painful than the fetters.

He felt uneasy and close to suffocation. The sack covered his head and hung over his body, transforming the faint light coming through the ventilators into complete darkness. He suffered from an incessant cold and his nose was full of mucus. It was impossible to get rid of it. The mucus streamed into his mouth. He felt deep despair.

"This is what they aimed at when they shackled me to the bars." It was another kind of pain to add to the intense throbbing in his stomach that caused him to faint several times.

When the officer-doctor examined him he said, "Don't worry, the pain will gradually go away," and then turned to examine another prisoner's chest.

He said to himself, "Their experience in beating has developed, so now they beat without leaving any signs of torture. They do not want anybody to see the signs, to preserve the illusion of the 'civilised occupation'."

The guard's steps approach the iron gate of the cell. Now he is turning the lock. The prisoner hears the squeaks. He senses the steps of the guard approaching him and sees his outline vaguely through the holes in the sack.

"So you don't want to confess? Well, I'll unlock your chains so you can eat." Hunger was tearing his stomach apart. A sharp pain had tormented him for several days.

"I don't have anything more to add to what I told you," the prisoner said examining and rubbing his chest and wrists and trying to dull the pain of the shackles.

The interrogator shouted at him, "Silence is not good for you. You incited people to strike. Your offence is not grave and the punishment will not be more than two years. Or perhaps only several months."

"I must tell you that inciting people to refuse to submit is not a criminal act in my opinion. However, I did not incite anybody. And because I have experienced your brutality, I can do nothing but incite after I leave prison."

"You will stay here for a long time if you do not confess."

"You don't answer?" said the interrogator, laughing sarcastically. He indicated to a soldier to take him to the cell. Two other soldiers followed him. The prisoner atttempted to sit on a blanket and pretended to be stupid. The soldier shouted and ordered him to stand by the wall. The prisoner held out his hands to be shackled.

"You know your duty," the soldier said sarcastically.

"I have learned the lesson well," the prisoner answered bitterly.

"You are very clever."

"But you are an ignoramus, because you have not benefitted from the lessons of history."

The soldier rushed to cover the prisoner's head with the sack and said, "This sack will teach you a lesson." The soldier punched him hard in the stomach. The prisoner's belly contracted in pain, but he stopped himself from crying out because he did not want to let them feel proud.

2

His father did not show any fear, even though his heart was heavy with distress. His son's image did not leave him wherever he went. Some people volunteered to inquire about him. He was glad of their initiative because it was spontaneous. A lawyer brought some news of the reasons for his son's arrest and promised good news. Visitors asked him to be patient and to consider others' sufferings. His colleagues at work offered to lend him money for emergencies. They made him feel his son was also theirs. He told himself this on his return home. He was very happy. The cloth bag he carried contained nothing but his tiling tools.

He greedily ate the food his wife prepared. He had not eaten well during the past few days. But why shouldn't he be pleased, the owner of the house in which he worked had promised to contact the authorities to discover the fate of his son. The owner of the house said he would be sad until his son was released, but added, "Perhaps your son rushed headlong into danger, an enthusiastic young man."

There are conditions — and the residents' general strike annoyed them. Was the authorities' claim that some individuals influenced everyone else logical? Didn't everyone suffer oppression and their harassment? Why were only his son and his friends punished?

3

"This is injustice," the young man told the interrogator, adding, "Give me the name of one person I have incited."

"Perhaps you are innocent, but we have to oppress people to teach them obedience. Otherwise how can we find out about every incident, big and small, in your town? News from here, a sign from there, and then we know how to investigate until we clear everything up. If we oppress innocents, then it becomes easy to control things and keep order." He sneered and the soldier called, "Take him to the cell."

The prisoner stood under his ventilator and held out his arms. The soldier shackled him and tied him to the bars.

Loneliness and gloom returned. Nevertheless he would not appear w before them. They would surrend him when they finally released knowing they had failed.

The prisoner listened intently. A bird was chirping his covered ears were gladdened by the bird's song. It seemed the bird was standing by the ventilation bars. He felt as free as the bird and his feeling of loneliness lessened. A pleasant image swept through his mind. He is now walking in the streets of a town, listening to the sound of people sounds like whistling. When the bird left, his pleasure did not leave with it.

Next day, when the sun rose, he was filled with the feeling that the bird would return; he was not let down. The bird's song filled him with happiness, or something like happiness. Meanwhile, the soldier brought him a very poor breakfast. He was not surprised when the soldier said he would not tie him up that day.

Who knew what the next day's news would be? He threw the remains of his food to the bird; the bird moved away a few steps and returned to peck at it greedily with its red beak. The bird began chirping a delightful tune and his heart danced in happiness. He felt that life was embodied in this chirp. His isolation in the cell would be like a silent tomb without this bird.

4

"His silence baffles me. I am not sure that he is innocent," the interrogator told himself. He was sitting at the table in his small office on the floor above the cell.

"But he insists he did not incite people to strike. His friends did not mention his name. His stubbornness and courage are the two characteristics which make us fear him, fear his freedom. But it is impossible to file a charge sheet in court without a confession. Besides that, there are a large number of prisoners waiting for interrogation — the cells are full."

A soldier came with two other men, their hands shackled together. The same sharp glances he always noticed were in the eyes of the prisoners.

"I wish I could tame them," the interrogator told himself and sighed deeply and angrily. He had never seen a young man without this light in his eyes.

5

His mother was pouring coffee. The sun's rays still mixed with the coldness of night, but they lit up the room. The light conveyed happiness after the dark night. The son's image did not vanish from his parents' eyes, even when they tried to close their eyes. How many times had they imagined him full of life and vitality. Thirty dark days passed slowly. She seemed happy after a pleasant dream.

"I wish I could see Farah."

"I wish you saw Farah like I saw him."

"Who told you I don't see him? He is still living with me," her husband responded nervously. His wife said, "I saw him catch a bird and caress it lovingly."

"Good news will come. The landlord will tell us of his fate. He knows them well."

"Don't trust him" she said angrily.

"But we are forced to believe him until they release Farah. I am not stupid and I know much more about these things than you do."

Last night's dream had reappeared at dawn. "You must get good news," she told herself, feeling her legs carry her body easily. She sat in the yard enjoying the autumn sunshine.

She gazed at the bird, carefully watching its beak pecking the earth. The colourful bird jumped agilely from one place to another, as if it wanted to get to know the yard. She kept watching it, especially when it did not fly away.

"Is this the embodiment of last night's dream?" she thought, sighing deeply.

"I know him well. He is not afraid nor is he showing them weakness." The idea gladdened her and increased her optimism. She expected good news. She gazed again at the bird and when she saw it jumping towards her, she became serene. (Translation: Al Jadid, May/June, 1982)

WINDOW ON THE ARAB PRESS

The call by the Supreme Islamic Council for a two hour strike on Monday, March 21 to protest the attempt by about 50 settlers to take over al-Aqsa mosque was a major story in local papers this week.

Demonstrations throughout the past week and the continued curfew on many refugee camps including Jalazoun and Dheisheh as well as curfews on Halhoul and Dhariyeh towns in the Hebron district drew press attention

Al Shaab Palestinian daily was the only paper to publish Military Order No. 1049 which extends the period of the Israeli-appointed municipal committees who replaced the democratically elected municipalities in Nablus, Ramallah and al-Bireh.

Al Quds gave prominent coverage to King Hussein's trip to London as the head of the seven-member Arab committee. Late in the week, the news of the establishment of eight new settlements in populated West Bank centres received top coverage.

American Incitement

One of the top advisors to the US Supervision and Disarmament Agency, Joseph Churba, has expressed his belief that the war between Syria and Israel will break out this coming spring and summer.

This US official's statement comes in the midst of successive inciting statements from US officials against Syria based on the presence of SAM-5 missiles on its soil. The latest of these statements was that of Caspar Weinberger, US defence secretary, who said that the presence of this type of missile in Syria made this country according to him into an outpost of the Soviet "empire."

No doubt the US officials well understand the danger of such statements and the echoes they leave inside Israel. Their effect has begun to be felt in threats made by Israeli military personnel against Syria and in the accumulation of Israeli forces along the front line with Syria in the Beqa'a.

The discriminating observer has enough evidence to believe that Israel will exploit and interpret this campaign of incitement as a green light from the US and use it as a pretext for a new adventure against Syria.

Syria has said more than once that the presence of SAM-5 missiles on its soil are for self-defence against Israeli threats and intrusion and that as a state it has the right to present all means of response to any hostility launched against it and that all the claims of Israeli and American officials on the danger of these missiles is only a cover for their plans against Syria and the forward position it represents for the Arab liberation movement in the region.

The US administration bears the total responsibility for the repercussions of Israeli threats against Syria. If is mistaken if it thinks that by raising the Israeli stick to Syria it can force it to give up its basic position concerning the Lebanese crisis in particular and the crisis of the whole region in general, and the confrontation of plans and conspiracies of American imperialism which aims at bringing down the Arab liberation movement and of drawing it into the framework of the Camp David accords.

AL FAJR
March 19

Starting Point

After the end of the seven-member Arab committee s visit to Britain ending the task entrusted to it by the Fez summit, the situation in the region still revolves around one basic point: the Arab stand.

What the seven-member committee showed on its trip to world capitals was the declared Arab policy towards the Palestinian issue. This stand now needs to draw from the actual situation to gain strength to be able to be persuasive in the world.

Thus it is not strange that one of the leaders of the superpowers visited by the members of the committee asked: Does the Arab world really want the establishment of a Palestinian state?

The various aspects of the conflict are organically and theoretically linked, for if the Israeli stand is the basic obstacle to attaining a just settlement in the region, then the response to this stubborn stand is US support and Arab impotence. The US position of support for Israel and its policies will not change as long as Arab impotence remains and is not replaced by a strong, influential and effective Arab stand which is headed in the capitals of the world.

This is the starting and ending point... Nothing other than this will have an effect in reality.

AL SHAAB
March 20

Discouraging Statements

US President Ronald Reagan s statement concerning peace negotiations and settlements are, at the very least, discouraging to the participation of new parties in the peace negotiation, because they leave nothing over which to negotiate.

While the US president asks Jordan and the Palestinians to enter negotiations according to his initiative, he presents nothing in return for their participation in the talks.

Have the peace negotiations, in Reagan's view become a goal in themselves? Doesn't he try to see further than the presence of a number of delegations around the negotiating table where the discussions revolve in empty circles?

The talks must be based on a firm footing, ensuring that the results will be in the interests of the negotiating parties and not for the benefit of one side only, which wants only to take and not give up anything.

The US president wants to give Israel the right to settle on occupied Arab land, which is the meaning of his refusal to regard the settlements as illegal... as long as the occupied territories are "vital" for Israel, then what is there to negotiate about?

This glaring contradiction between demands and results does not only defy the basic principles of logic, but also the fundamental premises and principles of right and justice.

AL QUDS
March 21

The Mistake

Every intelligent Israeli should and must regard with horror the statement of the Herut deputy head of the Knesset, Meir Cohen, expressing his belief that Israeli officials "made a disastrous mistake" when "they had the possibility" in 1967, but did not, in his opinion, work towards "throwing out 200,000 to 300,000 (residents of the occupied territories) to the other side, as happened in Lydda, Ramle and the Galilee in 1948" *(The Jerusalem Post*, March 17).

Those who remarked that this frank statement is "a direct call to perpetrate a massacre like Deir Yassin" are correct. Making such a statement at this time is an indirect call to perpetrate a new and terrible massacre. Neither we nor others can ignore such a danger.

The "possibility", as far as the racist governments are concerned, were and still are present. Thus Meir Cohen and the likes of him are playing around with historical facts when they delude themselves that the Palestinian Arabs' staying in their homeland, whether in Israel or in the occupied territories, is the result of a "mistake" made by the Israeli rulers or because of "an attack of pity!" Even after Deir Yassin and after they succeeded to disperse the majority of Palestinian Arabs from the towns and villages which became the state of Israel, Reuven Berkat did not "expect" the "minorities to stay in the Jewish state!" When the "possibility" again emerged in the tripartite aggression against Egyptin 1956, the massacre of Kufr Qassem was perpetrated, yet they still did not succeed. They did not make a mistake, and yet still did not succeed!!!

It is historically incorrect for the Likud masters to accuse the Labour alignment masters of not seizing the "possibility" when it appeared again during the June hostility of 1967. Ask the people of 'Amwas, and Yalu and Beit Nuba and Jiftlak, or even the people of Bethlehem who awoke, on the morning of the occupation of their country, to Israeli military loudspeakers warning them,"leave your houses and your towns in few hours, or they will be destroyed over your heads."! In the recent war in Lebanon does anyone dare to accuse Sharon and Eitan and the rest of the gang of not using every bloody chance to exploit this "possibility" when it re-emerged?

But they failed and they will continue to fail. All their tragedy, and our tragedy because of them, is that they do not want to understand that what happened in 1948 was a real "twist of fate" and the result of a direct tripartite conspiracy, which cannot be denied. They were fated to live with us, in Israel and in this Arab world. The mistake is not that they lost any "possibility." The mistake is in racist Zionist policy which lived its day but cannot live forever.

What is the alternative?

We are the alternative: our policy, programme, past, present and future.

We have always walked with our people along the right road. Yes, we, with this people and with all enlightened Israeli forces, we who have stood and will stand, united in rank and with the greatest awareness, against the bankrupt racists — in order to make their presence, rulers and policy, the big mistake.

AL ITTIHAD
March 21

THE PERMANENT PEOPLES' TRIBUNAL ISSUES SENTENCE

Verdict On Guatemala

On January 27-31, the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal (PPT) held a special session in Madrid to examine violations of human, political, social, civil and cultural rights in Guatemala. The PPT was founded in Algiers in 1976 within the framework of the International League for the Rights and the Freedoms of the Peoples which was created by the Italian anti-fascist resistance leader, jurist, historian and senator Lelio Basso. The tribunal, which has vast moral prestige but no juridical powers is comprised of: Medicine Nobel Prize laureate George Wald, president; Professor of International Law at Barcelona University Victoria Abellan; Professor of Constitutional Law and Swiss MP Richard Baumlin; General Secretary of the International Association of Democratic Jurists Amar Bentoumi from Morocco; Mexican sociologist Susy Castor; Harvard University theologian Harvey Cox; Uruguayan writer Eduardo Galeano; Belgian theologians Giulio Girardi and Fancois Houtart; French jurist Leo Matarasso, Mexican Bishop Sergio Mendez Arceo; Professor of Social Politics at John Hopkins University Vicente Navarro; US sociologist James Petras; Nobel Peace Prize laureate Adolfo Perez Esquivel of Argentina, and Italian Supreme Judges Council member Salvatore Senese.

The PPT examined scores of eye-witness testimonies, reports, documents and statements from a large variety of sources. They detailed a long list of institutional deviations, cultural and religious repression, censorship, the suppression of workers' union rights and of personal liberties. PPT also obtained proof of the massive campaigns of assassination and massacres of *campesinos* (peasants), native Indians, and other civilians in the countryside, clergy, volunteers and intellectuals and prelates in the cities suspected of sympathies for the guerrilla movement. They examined Guatemala's policies of razing entire villages, mass arrests and the torture of prisoners. It formulated its verdict as follows:

The Tribunal declares:

(1) That all succeeding governments in Guatemala since 1954, including the present regime of General Rios Montt, are guilty of grave, repeated and systematic violations of human rights, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and of the American Convention of Human Rights;

(2) That all these governments, including the present regime of General Rios Montt, are likewise guilty of attempts on the inalienable rights of the people of Guatemala to political and economic self-determination, and on the right of this people to exercise sovereignty over its own natural resources, in accordance with the United Nations Charter and a large number of UN General Assembly resolutions;

(3) That these governments, including the present regime of General Rios Montt, are guilty, in their armed conflict with the National Revolutionary Front of Guatemala, of grave, repeated and systematic violations of the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their amended protocols of 1977, and therefore of war crimes;

(4) That the torture, liquidation and forced disappearances of persons constitute crimes against humanity in the sense given to the term by the Nuremburg Tribunal (on Nazi war crimes);

(5) That the killings and terror practised against the native Indios, with the manifest intention of destroying them, constitute genocide in the sense given to the term in the International Convention of 1948;

(6) That the persons who participated in all these governments, including the government of General Rios Montt, are personally responsible for the international crimes as hereby specified, and this goes also for all senior officials of these governments and officers involved in these crimes;

(7) That the executors of these crimes will not be able to benefit from the excuse of having received orders;

(8) That the government of the United States of America is guilty of the crimes specified above, due to its decisive intervention in the internal affairs of Guatemala, and that the governments of Israel, Argentina and Chile are guilty of complicity with these crimes due to their aid and assistance (to the executors of the crimes).

Israel is singled out in documents drawn up by PPT because after the suspension of US aid to the Guatemalan regime in 1977, Israel replaced the Pentagon as the main source of support and supplies to this regime's army and police forces, both in terms of training and of Arava planes, armoured REY-MK vehicles, 81mm mortars, bazookas, grenade launchers, Galil guns and tons of ammunition. "These arms sales and training by Israel are destined to bolster repressive actions which constitute crimes," the report states.

from Livia Rokach
Our Rome Correspondent

NETUREI KARTA DENOUNCES ATTEMPT ON AL-AQSA

The late Orthodox Chief Rabbi Joel Teitelbaum

Leaders from the Neturei Karta anti-Zionist Jewish Orthodox movement have denounced the latest attempt by Jewish settlers to enter al-Aqsa mosque, describing it as "unholy and politically motivated."

Rabbi Moshe Hirsch, leader and spokesperson of the organisation which believes that Zionism is incompatible with Judaism told *Al-Fajr* that according to the Jewish philosopher Maimonedes, Jews are forbidden to enter the area where the Jewish temples previously stood.

Hirsch described the March 10 attempt by nearly 50 Jewish settlers to enter al-Aqsa mosque as "another step in the revisionist Gush Emunim alliance fronted by Agudat Israel, to manipulate the holy scriptures to further their unholy political aims." He called those attempting the entry "Gush Emunim upstarts."

The anti-Zionist leader told *Al-Fajr* that the late Orthodox Chief Rabbi Joel Teitelbaum had insisted that Jews must not visit holy sites in the occupied territories.

Teitelbaum wrote a book about the subject, following the 1967 war, in which he claimed that Zionists have been using the site of the Wailing Wall as a platform and arena to advance their political aims.

Replying to an often-heard argument that sites which are holy to Jews should be under Jewish rule, Hirsch also quoted the late Chief Rabbi Yosef Haim Zunnfeld, who, after returning from a visit to Sherif Hussein in Amman in 1924, stated that Jewish rule is not imperative. "Even if Hussein or any other non-Jewish ruler rules in the Holy Land, the holiness of the land will not diminish," he said. Hirsch described Israel as a state run by Jews and not a Jewish state representing Jewry and Jewish mentality, as is often claimed.

Recently, Rabbi Hirsch advised visiting members of Neturei Karta who wished to visit some Jewish holy sites in the occupied territories to secure written permission from the chosen representatives of the local Palestinian population: the PLO.

The Orthodox Rabbi pointed out that there are two possibilities for Neturei Karta ites to visit Jewish holy sites in the West Bank: either if Neturei Karta's recent request to join a possible Jordanian-PLO confederation, along with Palestinian Muslims and Christians, is accepted, or "if God deems it the proper time to send the Messiah and the wisdom of God will be known to all mankind and all nations acquire mutual understanding."

"Until then," Hirsch concluded, "the accepted Jewish heritage, tradition and religion forbids entry into the areas of the Temple."

continued from page 6

PLO Deals Blow

basis of the latter's abandoning of the Camp David policy."

Of course, the imperialist media advances its line by quoting the views of individual Palestinian figures who favour moves such as recognition of Israel by the PLO. As long as the PLO remains a broad national movement representing different class forces and political viewpoints, such opportunities for distortion will abound. It is necessary to recognise them for what they are.

A case in point is the way figures in the PLO such as Issam Sartawi have treated the PLO's declarations of support in April 1981 for the Mideast proposal put forward by former Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, or the resolution agreed to at the Arab summit at Fez, Morocco, last year.

Sartawi, who called on the PLO to recognise Israel in an interview that appeared in the *Washington Post* February 7, argued that the PLO had already taken that step indirectly when it endorsed the Brezhnev plan. But Sartawi's views were repudiated by Arafat's Fatah organisation, and Sartawi resigned from the PNC on February 20. Clearly, the PLO did not have the same thing in mind as Sartawi when it endorsed the Brezhnev plan.

Those favouring recognition of Israel by the PLO have also advanced Sartawi's argument in regard to the Fez summit resolution, saying that it was an implicit recognition to Israel. This was certainly true insofar as the Saudi regime was concerned. But the same resolution was supported by the PLO for different reasons, as is made clear by the PNC statement on Fez.

The PNC urged that political action "be complemented by military action in order to alter the balance of power in favour of Palestinian rights and struggles." It also explicitly noted that the Fez resolution did not take precedence over the PLO's political programme and resolutions.

Washington looks to Hussein

Now that Reagan's bid to split the PLO has been thrown back in his face, Washington is trying to move ahead with the other side of the Reagan plan, which is to gain Jordanian recognition of Israel.

As Reagan himself put it February 23, the day after the PNC meeting ended, "the greatest security for Israel, and this is what's back of our plan, is to create new Egypts, more nations, more neighbours that are willing to sign peace treaties with [Israel]."

Just as the Camp David deal provided Egyptian President Anwar Sadat with the fiction of Palestinian "autonomy" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as a cover for his sellout, Reagan offered Hussein a fig leaf by calling for "something in the nature of a homeland" for the Palestinians. He hastened to add that "no one has ever advocated creating a nation."

But it is one thing for Reagan, along with the well-paid editors in New York and Washington who are helping him push his policy, to pretend that the PLO is now irrelevant. It is another thing entirely for Hussein, who rules a mostly Palestinian country.

Although Reagan wants "new Egypts," masses of Arab working people have come to the realisation that just as the bloodbath caused by the Israeli aggression in Lebanon was a direct result of the Camp David treaty, so a "new Egypt" in Jordan would free the Israeli regime for new aggression against Syria.

Meanwhile, Hussein knows very well that the Palestinian struggle and the PLO are not going to disappear. As Arafat declared at the PNC meeting:

"We adhere to the rifle for the sake of peace built on justice and international legitimacy and in order to restore our people's inalienable national rights, their right to repatriation, self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil."

WEEKLY REVIEW

March 16, 1983

ACTIVE GALILEE

TEL AVIV — Israel Radio reported that the police arrested five Arab youths on a charge of raising a Palestinian flag on an electricity pylon in the Galilee village of 'Arrabeh and setting up a roadblock of stones on the road to Mitzpe Hararit.

Israel TV said that stones were thrown at Israeli vehicles in the Galilee. The window of an Egged bus was smashed when it passed by the villages of Arrabeh and Deir Hanna.

The TV reporter also added that a Palestinian flag was raised in the village of Sakhnin.

CONSCIENCE-STRICKEN

TEL AVIV — In a letter sent to the defence minister and the justice minister, three Israeli reserve soldiers have condemned the behaviour of the Israeli army in South Lebanon, especially their ill treatment of civilians and detainees, using prisoners for forced labour and sheltering criminals belonging to Lebanese militias inside Israeli bases. This letter was published by an Israeli newspaper.

A POLITICAL MATTER

TEL AVIV — Hanan Porath of the Tehiya party, Rabbi Moshe Levinger of Gush Emunim and Rabbi Eliezer Azman, head of the Kiryat Arba yeshiva, held a press conference in Kiryat Arba settlement concerning the attempt to enter the al-Aqsa mosque and the right of Jews to pray there.

Rabbi Levinger said that in his opinion, it was previously forbidden to Jews to pray in the Ibrahimi mosque in Hebron but that the "struggle" in itself had changed the situation. He indicated that Jews are not allowed to pray in the Haram al-Sharif area.

Rabbi Azman said that the yeshiva which he heads encourages students to take part in political matters. MK Porath said that praying in the Haram al-Sharif area did not contravene the law. He said the decision not to allow prayer was a mistake.

BEDUIN WIN MEETING

BEER SHEBA — Ten Beduin ended their hunger strike which they had been holding in a public park in Beer Sheba this week after the general director of the agricultural ministry promised to meet them to hear their demands. The Beduin have been on strike in protest at the practices of the 'green patrol' who recently seized their flocks of sheep.

HALF OVER

JERUSALEM — The Secondary School Students Union held a festival in Jerusalem at the Steel and Aluminium Workers Union hall to celebrate the end of the first semester and the publication of *tawjihi* results.

TOY BOMB?

TEL AVIV — Israel Radio said that an eight-year-old child died in the village of Marka in South Lebanon after a bomb explosion in the child's home.

The radio added that following the incident a Dutch contingent in the multinational forces discovered a number of explosive devices, planted near the village of Deir 'Imeish in South Lebanon which they dismantled.

Arms and ammunition stores belonging to Haddad gangs were discovered in Nabatiyeh and other villages in the south, and have been confiscated.

ALL IN THE FAMILY

TEL AVIV — The Israeli military court in Tel Aviv has sentenced an Israeli soldier to six months' imprisonment and nine months suspended on a charge of stealing parts of a military vehicle and exchanging them with parts of his own car.

His friend who helped him was given six months suspended sentence.

HA-CHOW!

BIR ZEIT — The Sports Committee of the Bir Zeit Students' Union has decided to resume its karate course for students and employees under the supervision of Jerusalem trainer Hassan Halawani. Many students and employees have registered for the course.

March 17, 1983

SOLDIER KILLS YOUTH

TEL AVIV — Israel Radio said that an Arab youth in Gaza was shot and killed by an Israeli border guard.

CARTER INTERPRETS 242

TEL AVIV — Former US President Jimmy Carter said that Israel should withdraw from land occupied in 1967. Carter said that the Camp David accords state the application of UN resolution 242, which calls for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied territories — although he admitted that this resolution is subject to various interpretations.

Carter made the statements four days after leaving Israel while on a tour of the region.

AL-AQSA THUGS

TEL AVIV — Israel Radio said that five of those who tried to break into the al-Aqsa mosque last week have been released because the investigation of three of them has ended and two others are minors.

The radio said that the charge files against 30 of those accused of attempting the break-in will be presented to the central court in Jerusalem today and that the public prosecutor will apparently ask that they be detained until legal procedures are completed. Maximum punishment is five years.

RE-ARABIZATION OF THE GALILEE

TEL AVIV — Professor Arnon Soper, head of the Jewish-Arab Centre at Haifa University, said that the number of Arab residents within the 'green line' will reach 1,200,000 in the next decade — half of whom will live in the Galilee. Professor Soper added that the number of Arab residents in some areas in the Galilee will increase four-fold the number of Jews there, so that Nazareth Elite and Karmel will be "surrounded."

ILLEGAL TAXES

TULKARM — Shops in Tulkarm have been raided by tax officials. Traders on Malika Zein Street said that they have received tax demands of between IS30,000 and IS40,000.

HEIL KNESSET!

According to a survey in the Likud magazine *Yoman Hashavua*, most Knesset members support using an 'iron fist' policy in the occupied territories.

MK Yigal Cohen has proposed forming a civil guard of Jews in the West Bank — to be linked to the 'security forces' — to confront events there.

TEAR - JERKER

Israeli supermarkets have been forbidden to sell customers more than three kilos of imported onions at IS45 per kilo after greengrocers began combining large quantities of the cheaper onions with local onions which sell for IS110 per kilo.

NO SALE

The Israeli daily *Davar* reported that an Arab landbroker was sentenced to three years imprisonment for forging the documents for 600 dunums of land belonging to al-Jeeb village near Jerusalem, in order to sell it to a Jewish landbroker for US $200,000. The court also sentenced his Jewish partner to one year suspended imprisonment and declared the land sale void.

NEW PLO EMBASSY

PRAGUE — The Czechoslovak government has decided to allow the PLO to open an embassy in Prague. The Czechoslovak news agency reported that the Czecholovak foreign minister met 'Atif Salam Abu Bakr, PLO envoy in Prague, today to inform him officially of this news.

GRAFFITI IN EILAT

TEL AVIV — According to Haaretz, Israeli sources said that police in Eilat arrested a number of Arab youths and are questioning them, following the discovery of graffiti in support of the PLO and a raised Palestinian flag in Eilat.

WORRIED ABOUT STONES

A delegation of Israeli settlers in the West Bank has demanded that the 'civil administration' take stronger punishment against those who throw stones at Israeli vehicles in the occupied territories.

Abu-Alamid Abu-Alamid was admitted to Ramallah hospital after being assaulted by evens members of the Ramallah Village League in his home village of Bili in. /JN

March 18, 1983

POW KILLED

Israel Radio reported that a prisoner in Ansar detention camp in South Lebanon was killed following a dispute inside the camp. The radio claimed that other prisoners had killed him, but did not indicate any reasons. The radio also claimed the Israeli soldiers arrived after the event.

ISRAELI AIR SHOW

BEIRUT — Israeli war planes flew over the southern suburbs of Beirut. Lebanese security sources said that other planes circled South Lebanon in an Israeli show of strength.

Mahmoud Khorosha, 65, of Ramallah, petitioned the High Court of Justice in Jerusalem to cancel military court order which requires him to pay an IS80,000 fine or to go to prison for three months after his daughter Randa's , right, conviction of alleged stone-throwing. /JN

KIDS SENTENCED

GAZA - The military courts of Gaza and Khan Yunis fined 167 Gaza Strip students sums of between IS8,000 and IS25,000 for demonstrating and throwing stones at Israeli vehicles. Some were also given prison terms of between 2 and 6 months with two or three years suspended.

CHECK

JERUSALEM - Israeli army forces erected a checkpoint on the Jerusalem-Ramallah road near Kalandia camp.

ATTACKED IN LEBANON

TEL AVIV; AFP The Israeli military spokesman said that an Israeli soldier was lightly wounded near Bashamoun village southeast of Beirut. Unidentified persons opened light-arms fire at an Israeli vehicle; the army began to search the area for them.

March 19, 1983

TOO CLOSE

BEIT SURIK - Unidentified persons in the last few days have cut down 35 peach trees belonging to Mohammad Hassan Ahmed Ibrahim from Beit Surik village. The land lies in the plain of Jeeb near the new Israeli settlement of Givat Zeev.

STONES FROM ISRAELIS

TEL AVIV Stones were thrown on the Ramot Road near Nabi Samuel in Jerusalem. One car was damaged. Israel Radio said that the stones were thrown by religious Jewish youths.

SMOKED THEMSELVES

TEL AVIV - A truck carrying smoke bombs and gunpowder exploded near a settlement in the Wadi 'Araba area.

SOLDIER-THIEF

TEL AVIV - Israeli police sources said they are continuing to search for an Israeli soldier who robbed a gas station in Beit Shemesh, west of Jerusalem.

March 20, 1983

UNSOLVED

ANABTA — The body of Issa Jamous, 85, was found in his house east of Anabta, two kilometers from the town. Unidentified persons apparently attacked his house last Friday where he lived alone, stripped him, beat him with stones and knives and stole his money.

PEOPLE'S RETRIBUTION

TEL AVIV — Israel Radio reported that one device exploded and another one was dismantled in South Lebanon in the strip controlled by separatist leader Saad Haddad and outside the houses of two Lebanese who had recently joined his gang.

ELECTRONIC CEDARS

BEIRUT - Newspaper reports in Beirut said that Israeli forces have finished erecting warning apparatus and electronic devices in the radar station they have erected on the peak of Jabal Barouk. The station, in the middle of a mountain resort area, is surrounded with barbed wire and civilians are not permitted to approach.

BAD FOR THEIR IMAGE

TEL AVIV — A spokesperson for the "There's A Limit" movement said that two Israeli paratroopers have been imprisoned for refusing to serve in Lebanon. The spokesperson added that the two soldiers, Jalad Ishel and Meir Shaffer, were sent to prison for 35 days. The number of soldiers who have been imprisoned for refusing to serve in Lebanon is now 29.

The spokesperson added that the testimonies of reserve officers on the treatment of Palestinian prisoners by border guard soldiers in Sidon, recently published in Lebanon, is detrimental to the image of the Israeli army. The movement called for the withdrawal of all Israeli soldiers from Lebanon and the release of soldiers imprisoned.

CATCH 22

The central court in Haifa has issued an order for the destruction of six houses in Beqa' al-Gharbiyeh in the Triangle on the pretext that their owners do not have building permits.

NEW WAR DRUMS

DAMASCUS - Damascus Radio said that Israel is currently reinforcing its forces on the front line with Syria in the Beqa'a plains. A large number of tanks and engineering units are also forging a new road between el-Bireh and Kamid el-Louz.

The radio added that separatist leader Saad Haddad was also strengthening his forces in the South.

SETTLERS ACCESS

Israeli bulldozers are opening a number of new roads in an area belonging to Beit Hanina, near the Hama road.

The area of land involved is over 5000 dunums, which its Arab owners are not allowed to use for building or agriculture.

BOOKS IMPOUNDED

BETHLEHEM - The Israeli authorities have closed the youth centre in 'Aida refugee camp after confiscating a collection of books found on the premises.

BUILDERS TAKEN AWAY

GAZA The military authorities raided the building of the Islamic University and arrested architect Taj el-Din Jarallah and two workers. The three men were taken to prison and the Board of Trustees is trying to get the authorities to release them.

COMMUNITY AID

EL-BIREH — The social committee in the 'Amari youth centre is distributing food presented by the Committee for the Care of the Needy in Jerusalem to 50 needy families in the camp. The committee is also helping to repair a number of houses damaged by rain and snow.

SIDE-BY-SIDE

Israel Radio said that dozens of Arab students in the Hebrew University took part in a demonstration in front of the Israeli prime minister's office. The demonstrators distributed pamphlets in solidarity with the stand of Arab students towards the Israeli occupation. The students called for the withdrawal of the Israeli army from Lebanon.

PRICE TOO HIGH

A number of Sheli activists demonstrated in front of companies on Dizengoff Street in Tel Aviv who sell new villas built in settlements behind the 'green line'.

The demonstrators carried placards against settlement, called on passers-by to sign a petition and distributed pamphlets saying: "Don't risk buying a tiger in a bag" and "They offer you cheap villas which will cost you and the state of Israel a lot.... all your lives are in endless wars. These villas and settlements sap most of the resources and income needed for education and health... don't buy..."

JEWS PROTEST NABLUS ELITE

Al Hamishmar reported that a demonstration took place in Nablus by left-wing Jews protesting the intention of the Israeli government to establish a new settlement called Nablus Elite near Nablus, similar to Nazareth Elite. The demonstrators carried banners in Arabic and Hebrew denouncing Israeli settlement in the West Bank. They called for negotiations between Israel and the PLO and the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside Israel.

The demonstrators distributed pamphlets with their demands to Arab residents of Nablus. At the end of the demonstration, the demonstrators were invited to the house of Mayor Bassam Shaka'a.

PRESS STRIKE

TEL AVIV — The newspaper *Haaretz* did not appear on Monday because of a workers' strike.

DUMBFOUNDED

The regional union of Israeli journalists expressed their 'regret' and 'surprise' at the statement made by Defence Minister Moshe Arens recently. During an interview on Israel Radio, Arens said that about 50 percent of reports published by the news media in the country were unfounded.

ROBBED IN BETHLEHEM

BETHLEHEM — The jewelry shop owned by Hanna Mitri on Nejma Street leading to Manger Square was robbed. The thieves, who smashed the locks and bars, stole US $40,000 worth of gold. Residents of the area have complained of repeated robberies; the last one took place in Beit Sahour.

DEBTORS PRISON

GAZA — Tax officials in Gaza raided the service garage of Salim al-Batash, ordered him to close it after confiscating most of his tools, and arrested him. They demand that he pay IS600,000 VAT. He supports a large family and cannot pay such an enormous tax, a tax that Palestinians maintain is illegally imposed on them.

March 21, 1983

TARGETED AGAIN

TEL AVIV - Israel Radio said that two RPG rockets were fired in the direction of an Israeli military patrol near the village of Bashamoun, southeast of the Lebanese capital.

AND AGAIN

TEL AVIV - Israel Radio said that an Israeli military patrol was exposed to gunfire in the area of Zahrani near Sidon and that nobody was injured.

FLAGS IN ANSAR

TEL AVIV - Israel Radio reported late at night a protest demonstration inside Ansar detention camp — lasting six hours — during which prisoners raised the Palestinian flag and shouted slogans in support of the PLO and against Israel.

The correspondent said that the protest and violence began when the prisoners refused to obey orders of Israeli military police officers.

TANK CASUALTY

TEL AVIV — An Israeli tank hit a land mine in the Lebanese Beqa'a Valley. Israel Radio said that the incident took place near the village of Rafina. The radio claimed that no one was hurt and that the land mine appeared to be old.

THREATS TO COLLABORATORS

Israeli newspapers have reported that residents of Nabatiyeh in South Lebanon have complained of threats against them because of their cooperation with separatist leader Saad Haddad and with the Israeli forces.

MEDAL FOR MASSACRES

Yitzhak Moda'i has suggested giving prize — medals for the Peace for Galilee Operation — to all ministers.

Yosef Burg, Israeli interior minister, has reservations for two reasons: first, that it does not befit the government to bestow medals on its members and second, that the war, whether political or military, has not yet ended.

EXTREMISTS RELEASED

Israeli legal sources said that the Jewish extremists who were arrested ten days ago while trying to break into the compound of the Omar and al-Aqsa mosques have been released on bail.

The accused, who belong to an extremist religious group in Kiryat Arba settlement, have been charged with conspiring to spread hatred between Jews and Arabs. The bail was set at IS5000 and they are not allowed to leave their houses until their trial.

The judge has permitted them to leave once a week to pray (on Saturdays) in synagogue.

March 22, 1983

FIVE IN SHOUF

TEL AVIV - Israel Radio reported that five Israeli soldiers were wounded, one seriously, after they stepped on land mines planted near the village of Nabrakh in the Shouf mountains.

WHO'S WHO

The Israeli authorities have issued an order to all charitable, women and cooperative societies in the West Bank ordering them to submit files of fee-paying members in preparation for elections in these societies.

POW PARCELS

BEIRUT — The International Red Cross in Beirut said that it has been able to distribute 2273 parcels to 6000 prisoners in Ansar camp in South Lebanon.

The organisation has, in the last two weeks, set up centres in South Lebanon, in Sidon and Tyre to enable prisoners' families to send parcels through them to their relatives in prison.

MORE SENTENCING

RAMALLAH — The Ramallah military court has this week sentenced a number of students on the pretext of throwing stones and incitement.

Issam Fardi was sentenced in six months imprisonment and fined IS20,000; Jamal Taleb to nine months imprisonment and a fine of IS25,000; Khalid Murshid al-Tawil to three months imprisonment and a fine of IS20,000. A number of students are still awaiting trial this week.

WOMEN'S ANSAR

BEIRUT — Humanitarian organisations have learned that the Israeli army, a few weeks ago, has set up a women's prison near Nabatiyeh. These organisations working in South Lebanon say that 10 women have been transferred from Israel to Nabatiyeh to the first womens' prison belonging to the Israeli army in South Lebanon.

A Lebanese army spokesman in al-Irza said that the women who were arrested in Lebanon are imprisoned in Lebanon but did not clarify where nor the number of women imprisoned. (see story, pp. 8-9)

"Without the work that Arabs do here, Eilat would be dead."

EILAT: VILLAGE, TOWN OR POLICE STATION?

by Khalid Khalifa

I doze on the shoulder of my friend, a young man holding an Arabic newspaper. The background music is interrupted, as usual, by the 1:00 news. Yael Ben Yehuda announces that an Israeli army vehicle has been attacked from the east "and none of our forces were injured."

Around us the earth is arid and yellow; here and there patches of winter green. The road is practically free of traffic; the post-war slump in tourism is obvious. On the way we stop for light refreshment at a gas station where we come across a half-empty bus which has also stopped for a brief rest. A tourist, called Suzie, turns to me and asks:

"Is Eilat a village or a town or a police station?" I think to myself, "All of those, plus a stretch of coast."

We drive until we arrive at a place a few kilometers from Eilat where we stop at a border guard roadblock, a relatively new phenomenon. A policeman gets on the bus and commands about 10 young men to "get off!"

To my surprise, the policeman passes by me politely, as though he wants to say, "Sorry for disturbing you."

Some of the young men are Arabs, on their way to build Eilat. They are told to remain in the police station at the entrance to the town. Later on I learn -- from one of the workers -- that after brief questioning they were told to walk to the town. A young woman in the bus whispered to her companion, "Shit! It's just like being taken off a bus abroad, only because you're Jewish." Finally, here are children thinking differently from their parents.

I ask if I can speak to them about those building their houses. At first, they regard me with suspicion, but later they soften up. A nice blond-haired boy sums up the situation: "I saw how they took them off the bus and checked them really good. The Arabs should be kicked out of here. They hassle and annoy our girls, so they can't leave their houses at night."

When I point out a young woman walking by us, and note that it is already 8:00 pm, he dismisses me saying,"It's the evening. I mean 12:00 at night."

The first sign of the nature of relations between Jews and Arabs.

Kateb Ismail Nejaidat, 17, is spending a winter holiday with his family in Eilat. He intends to spend his holiday working with his father, the manager of a firm which complained to the police about police behaviour towards the Arab workers during an incident when the police stormed the workers' living quarters and beat them up. Kateb spent his summer in Eilat and witnessed several traumatic incidents.

"Despite the suffering I go through when I visit my parents in Eilat, I love this town. Sometimes when I walk in the street, I get stopped by police or they suddenly appear from nowhere and say: *"Hat al-hawiyeh."* (Hand over your ID).

Samih, 25, with a very young-looking face, says he has been in Eilat for three years. "It's hard to get on with the people here. There is open apartheid and it's impossible to do anything against it. It's simply absurd in Eilat."

Abu Yasser interjects: "The company (Egged) treats us excellently as far as wages are concerned, although we are not on a par with our Jewish co-workers. But despite that we are satisfied with what we have. The company supplied us with an apartment to sleep in. But the boys prefer not to stay here. Just give the police an address -- and you have them knocking at your door. For this reason we spend the night in a bus, with mattresses instead of seats, near the central bus station. Everyone is afraid of police conspiracies."

Arab workers build Eilat.

The issue of the conditions of the Arab workers in Eilat was publicised after an Israeli TV report by Uri Goldstein. Maybe the most serious incident which brought about the report was when policemen were accused of forcing Arab workers to have sexual relations with each other. This caused a big scandal, and brought complaints about the brutality of the Israeli police against the Arab workers.

The Story of Sexual Relations

Ibrahim Ya'aqub, 30, who works on a site belonging to Arronson, a big construction contractor, told the story. "Somebody, apparently a tourist, started bothering a local girl. The girl screamed hysterically. Arab workers from the West Bank, who were working in the vicinity, rushed to help her. By the time the police came, the tourist had disappeared. Then they arrested one of the Arab workers who was there."

Ibrahim added that the girl told the police that none of those present had touched her, and that they had all come to help her. But the police were not convinced. After that, the police accused one of the youths of a sexual offence. Then the police took some West Bank youths to a dining room nearby where they were beaten from midnight till 2 am. The workers did not want to talk about being forced by the police to have sexual relations with each other.

Mohammad Morad, 32, from Kabul in the Galilee, talking about the relations between the Arab workers and the local community in Eilat, says.

"The reports on the radio, TV, and in the press about the condition of the Arab workers aroused a strong anti-Arab reaction here. They started to incite against us. I have been working here for three years and I never heard a curse such as *"Khatichat Arwi "* (piece of Arab) or *"Aravi Mluchlach."* (dirty Arab). But after the publicity and the war in Lebanon, the situation changed. The people regard me with suspicion."

Mahmoud adds: "After all this, I couldn't stand it and went north. But there is no construction there, no work, so I came back here. Otherwise, I'd starve."

Mahmoud believes that the reason for the local community's antagonism is education. "The Israelis don't emphasise the fact that the Arab is a human being."

"You Are Like Dogs"

"Has something happened to you?" I ask. He refers me to someone else, a young man called Mahmoud Taha from Kabul, who relates his story:

"One day, I am walking in the street. This policeman comes and says 'Shalom, are you Muslim, Druze or Christian?' I tell him I'm Muslim. Then he says to me 'So you support Yasir Arafat, not George Habash!' and he goes on to tell me, 'Yasir Arafat taught you his principles, so that you can support him without shouting it out in the streets.' Afterwards the policeman said, 'You Arabs are pitiful. You work for the whole month for IS8,000.' I answered: 'We are working for you. If we don't build for you, who else will?' Then he insults me and says ' You are stupid. We work under respectable conditions, and you are like dogs.' I left him. I couldn t continue talking with a character like that."

I return to Mohammad Morad. He says, "Me, for example, I have 10 children. If they throw me out of my job because of these provocations, I will be forced to turn to crime. All 5,000 Arab workers who support 50,000 individuals will also be forced to criminality because of unemployment. It will rebound on those who oppress us, mainly the people of Eilat and the police."

"What is your opinion of the role of the municipality in this?" Salameh, 25, replies: "Gadi Katz, the mayor, claims there is no Arab problem in Eilat. He signs all resident work permits in Eilat. He claims, 'I don't know about anything, I don't hear anything.' "

I ask the young men what brought them to Eilat.

Morad says:"Firstly, we get a few hundred shekels more than in other places, because this is a development town and in the north there's an employment problem. You go to a company in the Galilee and they refer you to Eilat, saying 'We have no work here.'

"Then the employment bureau does not give you insurance if you get work in the north."

Eilat without Arabs would be a dead town, lifeless. Without the work that the Arabs do here, Eilat would be dead. Translation: Bamerhav, 2.83)

To Palestinians living in the diaspora:

If you need professional assistance including legal advice for buying, selling or renting or collecting rent in the West Bank,
Contact. Omar International
P.O.Box 20185
Jerusalem
Tel. 972 (2) 283791
Telex 26467 Omar il

THIS WEEK'S CENSORSHIP

Following is a breakdown of censorship cuts for issue 151 March 25, 1983.

Number of original articles sent to censor	15
Number of articles totally censored out	5
Number of articles partially censored but used	2
Number of articles passed	8